MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 JUNE 1981

Lebanese Crisis

Begin Remarks--Jerusalem radio reported that Prime Minister Menahem Begin said in a U.S. television interview that Israel can destroy the Syrian missiles in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' region within 2 hours. In other remarks, broadcast by IDF radio, Begin said that despite U.S. special envoy Philip Habib's brilliance and efforts, he did not achieve any concrete results in his recent shuttle diplomacy. Israel is giving him more time, is showing more patience and is not setting any time limit for his mission, but he warned that there is a limit. Although he declined to say what that limit is, he said it would be impossible to continue negotiations forever without any concrete results. The radio also quoted Begin as saying that Israel must pay attention to recent Syrian military exercises and troop movements into Lebanon and Syria's border zone with Lebanon. He stressed that Israel will not attack Syria but that if Syria attacks Israel, it will fight back with determination. Begin also reiterated that Israel will continue to hit Palestinian bases.

TISHRIN Commentary--The Syrian daily TISHRIN, reviewed by Damascus radio, said on 2 June that conflicting U.S. and Israeli statements about U.S. special envoy Habib's mission are in reality complementary: both are attempting to reach the same goal by different means. Recent Israeli threats and warnings are pressures designed to pave the way for Habib's second tour of the Middle East. TISHRIN said that if Habib wants his mission to bring peace to the region, he and the U.S. Government should first acknowledge that Lebanon is an independent and sovereign state whose airspace, waters and territory should not be violated or attacked. The United States should then denounce and work to halt the continued Israeli attacks on Lebanon. Second, Washington should acknowledge that the Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) are legitimately in Lebanon, deployed by a Lebanese and Arab decision. Such an admission would mean canceling steps opposing the work of the ADF and ending objections to its number, armament, mission and deployment. TISHRIN warned that Habib's mission is doomed to failure unless the United States recognizes these points and their implications. TISHRIN reiterated Syria's argument that its missiles in Lebanon are purely defensive and hold no dangers for anyone seeking peace. It added that if the Arabs accept Israel's logic, however, they have the right to destroy the Israeli atomic reactors in Dimona and elsewhere as well as the nuclear and chemical research centers in Rehovot and other Israeli centers for the development and manufacture of armaments.

Khaddam in Saudi Arabia--SPA reported that Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Riyadh today with a written message for King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz from President Hafiz al-Asad.

Military Situation--Beirut radio reported further artillery duels between eastern and western Beirut during the afternoon of 1 June. After a brief lull, the firing resumed in the evening, the radio said. According to the Voice of Lebanon radio, the Republican Palace and the residence of U.S. Ambassador John Gunther Dean came under shellfire. The radio also reported violent Syrian shelling of Zahlah, and Beirut radio confirmed that the situation in the eastern city "exploded" during the afternoon. Beirut radio said later that 14 persons were killed and 96 were wounded in the day's fighting in Beirut and Zahlah, and the Voice of Lebanon claimed that 1,500 shells and rockets fell on Zahlah.

'Ali Comments--In an interview with an IDF radio correspondent, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said Egypt will not agree to a solution of one part of the Lebanese problem, namely, the missile issue, without a solution of the other part, the cessation of Israeli overflights. He said one of the ideas President Anwar as-Sadat will present to Prime Minister Begin this week is the establishment of an inter-Arab peacekeeping force in Lebanon to replace the Syrian force. He said As-Sadat will also tell Begin that the autonomy talks will have to resume immediately after the Israeli elections.

Islamic Conference Foreign Ministers

Saddam Husayn Address--In a speech opening the Islamic Conference foreign ministers meeting in Baghdad, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn said the most important question facing the Islamic people is how to support the Palestinian people in recovering their homeland, rights and Jerusalem. In his speech, which was transmitted textually by INA, the president underlined Arab rejection of Israeli aggression against Lebanon and affirmed that the Islamic nation denounces and censures those who aid and abet Israel's aggressive and expansionist policy, especially the United States. He acknowledged the "arduous efforts" exerted by the Islamic good offices committee to resolve the Iran-Iraq conflict and in this regard reaffirmed that Iraq does not covet neighboring territories nor does it intend to harm its neighbors.

Habib Chatti Address--Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti told the conference that Israel has gone too far in its intransigence, and he denounced its threats against the Arab nation. In his remarks, which were reported by INA, Chatti predicted a "comprehensive explosion" threatening world peace stemming from Israeli policies. He noted that West Europe has so far failed to make any new proposals for solving the Arab-Israeli conflict and that the U.S. stand is going from bad to worse. He also pointed out that the solution of the Afghan problem requires the unconditional withdrawal of foreign forces from that country.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Statement--According to Tehran radio's Arabic service, the Iranian Foreign Ministry issued a statement condemning the convocation of the Islamic Conference foreign ministers during this "grave stage" in the war with Iraq and promised not to forget those who have supported Iraq in its aggression.

Pakistan

Karachi radio reported that Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang arrived in Islamabad on a 4-day visit to Pakistan. According to the radio, the premier's first round of talks with Pakistani President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq lasted nearly 3 hours. In a speech at an Islamabad banquet, cited by Karachi radio, Haq told his Chinese guest that Pakistan would like to promote a peaceful political solution to the Afghan problem and is working to improve its relations with India. He also said he hopes Pakistan's attempts to purchase arms will be interpreted properly and not used for unjustified propaganda purposes. According to the radio, Premier Zhao Ziyang responded to Haq's speech with praise for Pakistani efforts to provide relief to some 2 million Afghan refugees and also commended Pakistan's efforts to improve its relations with other countries of south Asia. Karachi radio reported that Premier Zhao Ziyang visited an Afghan refugee camp near Peshawar on 2 June.

Iran

In a speech to a group of citizens from Azarbayjan, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni said that purification is necessary for those in power and that those powerholders who adopt a rebellious attitude threaten the entire country with rebellion. In his remarks, a recording of which was carried by Tehran radio, Khomeyni warned that the situation in Iran will not improve as long as purification is not initiated at the top levels. He said peace should begin from the highest ranks of officialdom.

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ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONVENE IN BAGHDAD

Opening Session

JN012022 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 1 Jun (INA)--President Saddam Husayn inaugurated here late this afternoon the meetings of the 12th Session of the Islamic Conference Foreign Ministers.

In an important and comprehensive opening speech, President Saddam Husayn said that the emergence of the Islamic Conference Organization was an eminent event in the contemporary history of the Islamic countries. For the first time in this age, he said, such an organization has emerged within whose framework the officials of the Islamic countries permanently meet to discuss issues of cooperation and solidarity among themselves. President Saddam Husayn requested the conferees to observe a minute of silence in mourning for late Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman.

Moustapha Niasse, Senegalese minister of state for foreign affairs, then delivered a speech on behalf of the African group in which he thanked Iraq—president, government and people. He said that the conference is being held in Baghdad following the important resolutions adopted several months ago at the At-Ta'if summit conference. He expressed the African group's appreciation for the positive contribution of the people and Government of Iraq in spreading and consolidating the Islamic principles, to which the Muslims are deeply attached. He called on the Islamic states to unite and adhere to the spirit of solidarity and to promote cooperation in order to confront and repulse the challenges, particularly in the Middle East.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, then delivered a speech on behalf of the Arab group. He expressed the group's thanks to President Saddam Husayn for inaugurating the conference. He said that President Saddam Husayn's presence gives great importance and profound meaning to this meeting. He added that Iraq has given and is still giving much to all aspects of the Islamic civilization. He said that Iraq enjoys a distinguished status not only in the Islamic world, but in the entire world as well.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen then delivered a speech on behalf of the Asian group in which he expressed the Asian group's thanks for and pride in President Saddam Husayn's presence at the conference. He stressed that the Islamic world is facing several challenges, division and foreign intervention. he said that the Middle East region is a core of tension and called on the conferees to confront these challenges and to bolster Islamic solidarity as well as to achieve positive results in this regard.

Sharifuddin Pirzada, chairman of the 11th Session of the Islamic Conference Foreign Ministers, delivered a speech. He praised the role late Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman played in consolidating Islamic solidarity. He expressed the Islamic world's grief over his loss. He stressed that the Islamic states are facing increasing challenges aimed against their unity and solidarity and said: The Islamic peoples are determined to liberate occupied Palestine, restore the usurped rights and get rid of injustice.

Touching on the Zionist aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, he said that this aggression is aimed against Lebanon's territorial integrity. He called for total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, particularly holy Jerusalem. He also called for finding a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue in a manner that guarantees the Palestinian people's right to their land.

He said that the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan will remain a source of anxiety and tension in the region. He called for the foreign forces' withdrawal from Afghanistan and for the return of (?two) million Afghan refugees to their country.

He stressed that the Iraqi-Iranian conflict is a source of pain for the Islamic peoples and called for an end to the conflict, which leads to an exhaustion of potentials. He also called for tangible work by the foreign ministers to end this conflict. He said that the security of the Gulf region is the responsibility of its states.

Following this, President Saddam Husayn left the conference hall amid loud applause. He was escorted by Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, and Sharifuddin Perzada, chairman of the previous session.

The conference then mourned the death of late Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman with a message whose text was read by Habib Chatti.

Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, delivered a speech in which he thanked President Saddam Husayn for patronizing the conference and the efforts exerted to make this conference a success. He expressed great appreciation for the sound viewpoints voiced in the president's speech.

Chatti added: We observe with great apprehension the grave deterioration of the situation in the Middle East region as a result of Israel's continued violation of all laws and norms and all principles of justice and international behavior He added that Israel has gone too far in its intransigence and the policy of expansion, aggression, perpetration of barbaric crimes and inhuman practices, incitement of sedition and fabrication of crises without caring that such a policy is subjecting the entire region to disaster and consequently, the whole world to an explosion with dire consequences.

This entity is continuing its aggressive campaigns against the Palestinian people inside occupied Palestine and these people's holy sites, particularly holy Jerusalem and Al-Ibrahimi Mosque. It is going too far in its policy of usurping land, expelling these lands' owners and constructing settlements. This entity is continuing its military campaigns against the Lebanese people and Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon in an attempt to partition this independent state and strike at the unity of its people and territory.

The organization's secretary general denounced the Zionist threats against the Arab nation, affirming what was previously declared by the third Islamic summit: concern over Lebanon's independence and sovereignty and the unity of its soil and people.

Habib Chatti added: We would like to draw the Western world's attention to the gravity of the existent Middle East situation. We would also like to affirm from this rostrum that the Zionist entity's continuation of its expansionist and aggressive policy and creation of tension in this region will inevitably lead to a comprehensive explosion that will threaten the entire world's peace.

It is unfortunate and strange that despite the exacerbation of the situation in the region, there seem to be no signs in the international arena to reassure us that this situation can be dealt with through proceeding from the study of the real causes of the eruption of such a situation. We have witnessed the failure of all the proposals that were made as bases for solving the region's crisis since all these proposals did not center on the crux of the crisis: the Zionist entity's direct responsibility for this situation.

West Europe has so far failed to make any new proposals for solving the Arab-Zionist conflict, proposals that can contribute to achieving progress on the right path toward the aspired solution. In fact, West Europe's stand remained frozen within the framework of the Venice resolution, which only constitutes general principles that would make sound bases for a plan leading to a solution to the issue. Now however, more than one year after its issuance, this resolution has still not been implemented.

Habib Chatti affirmed that the U.S. stand is going from bad to worse, as all reports show. This stand gives priority among its international interests to relations between the two superpowers.

It calls on the Arabs in all simplicity to cooperate with the United States in the confrontation of the threat of Soviet infiltration of the Middle East region, a call made either out of ignorance or disregard for the fact that the Soviet presence in this region is primarily a result of the Zionist entity's insistence on continuing its expansionist policy at the Arabs' expense and disavowing the Palestinian people's right to establish their independent state on their national soil under the PLO--their sole legitimate representative--and a result of the U.S. support for such a policy. He said: We still do not know whether Washington has relinquished such a stand now that it has become clear that no Arab is ready to follow such a course.

The Palestinian issue is the mother of the issues in the region and the Middle East. It is the most important issue since it subjects East-West relations to crisis.

Chatti added: The outbreak of war between the two Muslim neighbors, Iraq and Iran, and its continuation for over 8 months pains the hearts of all the Muslims in the world and their leaders. Large numbers of fellow Muslims are dying every day in this war, and the resources of both countries and their vital installations are being wasted and destroyed.

On the efforts of the organization's General Secretariat to avoid the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran war, Chatti said: Ever since the outbreak of tension between Iraq and Iran, the General Secretariat has attempted to interfere to avoid war. Following the outbreak of war, the secretariat has been and is still employing its good offices through the Islamic peace committee with the aim of preserving the dignity of both countries and reaching positive results based on the interests of both states and on the need to stop bloodshed. Chatti expressed the hope that the organization would be able to bring both countries together by paving a common ground for them in order to end the tragedy and restore normal relations between them. The organization, Chatti added, is always ready to work in the service of Islamic solidarity and aims and is aware of the harm done by this war to the entire Islamic group.

The secretary general called for more efforts to enable the people of Afghanistan to exercise their inalienable rights of self-determination and choosing their government without any foreign interference and pressure, regardless of the desires of any small or big state or the interests of any superpower. Chatti pointed out that the Afghan problem will not be solved except through the unconditional withdrawal of foreign forces from this country and no involvement in the current struggle between the Western and the Eastern blocs.

Chatti reaffirmed adherence to the nonaligned principles and reiterated the organization's rejection of any foreign interference in Islamic affairs and its determination to promote the will of the Islamic states and impose respect for their sovereignty. He voiced the organization's desire to adhere to international law, the UN Charter and the Nonaligned Movement's principles. He rejected moves to involve the Gulf region in superpower struggle and considered this to be a serious action which not only threatens the region's states and peoples and the Muslim world, but also the international community and mankind, an action that will lead to a regrettable future. He said that the area is sensitive because of its oil wealth and strategic significance. Everyone must respect the desire of the region's states and peoples to preserve their independence and sovereignty. The Gulf states, he said, are capable of protecting their security, preserving their interests and fulfilling their commitments on their own and are absolutely not in need of anyone's assistance in shouldering their responsibilities on any level.

Chatti welcomed the emergence of the Gulf Cooperation Council and blessed the Gulf states' steps toward progress through cooperation and integration among themselves, which realized tangible results in all fields for them.

The secretary said: The General Secretariat is continuing its interest, with all the means available to it, in the causes of the Muslim communities and minorities. Among such causes is that of the Philippine Muslims, which has been considered by the General Secretariat for the past 7 years without any decisive result. The Philippine Government is still insisting on its rejection of the Tripoli agreement it made with the Moro Front in December 1976 despite the General Secretariat's efforts and contacts with that government in order to persuade it to resume dialogue with the front. Today, we notice with profound displeasure the escalation of the military repression and its consequences, which greatly harm the Muslims and their property.

The conference then elected Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi chairman of the 12th Session of the Islamic Conference Foreign Ministers. The heads of the Niger and Maldives delegations were elected vice chairmen, the head of the Pakistani delegation rapporteur, and Dr Riyad Mahmud Sami, member of the Iraqi delegation, head of the Drafting Committee.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, chairman of the Islamic foreign ministers current session, stressed that Iraq supported the Islamic Conference Organization morally and financially from the beginning.

Addressing the conference here this evening, he added that Iraq's support is based on its faith in the organization's distinguished place among international organizations, positive influence on international issues, constructive participation in the political, economic and cultural fields on the international level, special role in explaining the Islamic message and its humane teachings, and strengthening Islamic solidarity, world peace and security.

Dr Hammadi explained that proof of Iraq's support for the organization is the donation of about $4.5 million for the Islamic Solidarity Fund between 1977 and 1981 and 2 million dinars for the Jerusalem Fund.

Dr Hammadi pointed to the third Islamic Conference summit's political resolutions, which were referred to the Islamic foreign ministers current session. He said that the most important resolution was that pertaining to the Islamic work program to confront the Zionist enemy. He added that the General Secretariat was requested to study the legal and procedural aspects of the program.

He said that the current session can adopt whatever new resolutions and steps on four important issues, namely, working for the issuance of a resolution by the UN General Assembly on a request for a consultative opinion by the International Court of Justice on the Israeli practices and measures that violate the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people; calling on the UN General Assembly not to accept the credentials of the Israeli delegation to the United Nations; adopting sanctions against the Zionist entity; and freezing its membership in the United Nations.

Dr Hammadi expressed his confidence that the Islamic Conference Organization's member states seriously consider the third Islamic summit's resolution on severing all relations with the Zionist entity. He said that we hope the concerned states have adopted or will adopt the necessary steps in response to that resolution.

On the situation in Lebanon, the Iraqi foreign minister said the tension reached a dangerous level because of the developments during the past few weeks, when the fighting escalated and spread, Israel stepped up its aggression against southern Lebanon and increased its air raids against Lebanese cities, killing or wounding a large number of Lebanon's innocent sons and extensively destroying residential quarters. He added that these raids were accompanied with new Zionist threats to escalate military operations. He said that the situation in this afflicted fraternal country indicates a new attempt to dismember Lebanon in accordance with the ambitions of foreign parties. He called on the conference to discuss all the dimensions of the situation in Lebanon.

On Eritrea's request to be accepted as an observer member in the Islamic Conference Organization, Dr Hammadi stressed the importance, justice and distinguished place of the Eritrean issue among liberation movements.

He said that the duty of the Islamic foreign ministers session is to adopt the appropriate steps to accept Eritrea as an observer member.

He stressed that Iraq will continue its strong support for the African stand on the Namibia issue. He added that Iraq will support any step in this respect.

The Iraqi foreign minister then talked about the international relations and said that the gap between the industrial states and the developing states recently increased because the present world economic order is not in step with economic developments. He accused the industrial states of adopting intransigent and selfish stands and said: These states lack the desire to make changes in international economic relations.

Dr Hammadi said that Iraq calls for diligent work to attain a just world economic order by means of holding a constructive dialogue based on a real political will that believes in making the necessary changes. He pointed out that the sound method to deal with the world economic problems is within the framework of the United Nations and with the participation of all the world's states. He added that the inflation which is exported to the developing states by the industrial states as well as the hike in the inflation rates in the developing and industrial states are the main reasons for the increasing disorder of the developing states' balances of payment.

On the economic cooperation among the developing states in general and the Islamic states in particular, Dr Hammadi said that Iraq considers this to be among the basic factors for achieving a new world economic order and that it is one of the bases of Iraq's foreign policy. He announced that about four percent of Iraq's entire national production in 1979 was offered as aid to the developing states in the form of grants, donations and easy loans. This percentage amounted to 5.6 percent in 1980. Meanwhile, he said, the total percentage of the aid offered by all the Western industrial states amounted to less than 0.32 percent of their entire national production. He added that during 1979 and 1980, Iraq concluded with the developing states 22 agreements on economic cooperation. Meanwhile, Iraq is compensating the developing and poor countries which had direct oil contracts with it for any increases in the offical prices of Iraqi oil.

The Iraqi foreign minister also talked about Iraq's increasing interests in religious affairs. In this regard, he reviewed the activities of the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs. He said that the ministry has established very strong ties with the religious societies and institutions in the Islamic countries and with the Muslim minorities in the whole world. He spoke in detail about building and repairing mosques in Iraq as well as looking after the men of religion and places of worship, in addition to facilitating the travel of Muslim pilgrims.

The conference then held a closed session, during which the conferees listened to a report on the meetings of the senior officials of the countries participating in the Islamic conference foreign ministers meeting, held here last Saturday.

A discussion was then held on the conference's agenda, which was unanimously approved by the ministers. The conference formed five committees. These are the Political and Information Committee, the Economic and Social Committee, the Cultural Committee, the Administrative and Financial Committee and the Drafting Committee.

The conference then adjourned its session and will resume its meetings here tomorrow morning.

Saddam Husayn Speech

JN011713 Baghdad INA in English 1620 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jun (INA)--Text of President Saddam Husayn's speech inaugurating the conference of the Islamic countries foreign ministers:

Dear brothers, foreign ministers of Islamic countries:

In the name of the people and the leadership in Iraq, I extend to you our brotherly greetings on the occasion of holding your conference. Baghdad, the city of peace, which has been for many centuries the centre of the Arab Islamic culture, feels proud of hosting this conference in which the representatives of the Islamic peoples are meeting.

The emergence of the Organization of the Islamic Conference is an eminent event in the contemporary history of the Islamic countries. For the first time in this age, such an organization has emerged within whose framework the officials of the Islamic countries permanently meet to discuss all issues of co-operation, solidarity and issues of supporting the causes for which the Islamic peoples struggle, namely the causes of freedom, independence, progress, justice, and backing up the principles of the righteous religion, in addition to clarifying the glorious teachings of Islam, getting the peoples all over the globe acquainted with these teachings and protecting the Islamic institutions and the Moslems' affairs throughout the world.

Maybe among the quite clear facts is that all the Islamic peoples belong to the peoples of the Third World. All our peoples suffered, in various manners, the exploitation of imperialism, attempts of domination and hegemony practised by the big powers contrary to all humanitarian principles and criteria of justice and equality.

Since Islam is a religion [which] calls for freedom and resists oppression, tyranny and aggression and since we belong to the peoples of the Third World, therefore the intrinsic nature of our organization, i.e. the Organization of the Islamic Conference is a nature [which] supports freedom, independence and progress. It is also struggling against all forms of exploitation, aggression and hegemony. It meets, in this point, with all aspirations of the peoples in the world. Hence, although this organization has been set up for the Islamic countries only, but it mainly complies with the aspirations and hopes of all peoples. Therefore, it is very natural that the Organization of the Islamic Conference has occupied such a decent position in the world community and has firm relations with the regional and international organizations which contain peoples whose objectives and aspirations are the same as ours, such as the Arab League whose members are represented in the Organization of Islamic Conference, the Organization of the African Unity, the Non-Aligned Movement and the United Nations.

Dear brothers, the Islamic peoples have their own causes, but they have also various common causes with the majority of the peoples all over the world. Furthermore, as the duty necessitates exerting all efforts required to further relations of cooperation and solidarity in all political, economic and cultural fields among the Islamic peoples, it also necessitates cementing relations of cooperation and solidarity with the other peoples who share with us the same humanitarian basic objectives, in particular those peoples with whom we have relations in non-alignment.

The struggle we are launching against all forms of imperialism and exploitation and against aggressive Zionism, hegemony and suppression, is not a form of reaction to any of the current conditions, but it is profound intrinsic method emanating from the very teachings of our Islamic belief.

Our forefathers struggled under the banner of the prophet Muhammad (peace be on him) and under his caliphas and disciples against corrupt tyrannic empires and brought the principles of Islam, namely the principles of freedom, justice and equality to the four corners of the world. Now we, the descendants of those great men who believed in this glorious message, shoulder the responsibility of "jihad" within the terms of our age and within the framework of the particular circumstances of the age, for the same principles and lofty objectives for which our glorious ancestors struggled.

Dear brothers, your conference has a particular significance, for it is being held a few months following the Islamic Conference held in the holy shrine of Ka'bah and the ancient mosque, the land of revelation, the land of the glorious Islamic message, exploits and sacrifices.

The third summit Islamic Conference was a distinguished occasion for the meeting of the leaders of the Islamic countries. Some resolutions of extreme significance were adopted in that conference culminated by the historic Mecca Declaration.

In your conference, now, my dear brothers, you shoulder weighty responsibilities. You are shouldering duties of taking practical measures to implement the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the third summit conference, find out the practical means to follow up implementation and create favourable circumstances which may translate those resolutions and recommendations into tangible realities.

There is a profound ever-growing feeling that Islamic solidarity should be cemented and changed into a tangible fact in the international life within the framework of an open-minded outlook aiming at realizing some objectives of humanitarian dimensions. Therefore, we are all agreed that the resolutions and recommendations, despite their significance per se, they do not create by themselves new realities unless they are effectively implemented.

Duty necessitates that we should further cooperation and solidarity among our peoples and countries and translate our aspirations and ambitions expressed in the previous conferences and in the last conference in particular, into tangible realities which may realize their presence in our conditions, in our political, economic and social relations and in the role we may play individually or as a solid group which is supposed to be active and effective for attaining the lofty humanitarian aims.

Exactly as we had the honour of taking serious participation in the summit Islamic Conference, in formulating their resolutions and recommendations and in bringing that conference into success, we have the honour here in Iraq--while we are hosting your conference--to exert all efforts, and render all our potentialities to bring your conference into success and facilitate your noble task.

Dear brothers, we are all agreed that the most important question we are facing as Islamic peoples, is how to support the Palestinian people for recovering his usurped homeland and rights and now to recover the holy city of Jerusalem (Al-Quds) to its sons who maintained, over centuries, its authentic heritage and cherished the heavenly values where and when there were no discrimination, fanaticism and monopolisation.

Now, Jersualem (Al-Quds) is subject to the obnoxious Zionist occupation. This occupation is full of grudge, fanaticism, evil spirit and aggression. The same is in Palestine as a whole--Palestine which is the holy land for all heavenly religions. Hence, struggle for liberating Palestine and holy Jerusalem (Al-Quds) is not a limited question, but it is a question of humanitarian dimension.

We pin hopes, exactly as we did in the previous conference, on your current conference that it would adopt attitudes and resolutions which may bolster up the struggle of the Arab Palestinian people and enable them to attain their just aims under the leadership of the PLO the legitimate and sole representative of this striving people.

It is quite clear to you all, my dear brothers, that the Zionist insolent threatenings have reached a point at which we cannot connive or close our eyes to them any more. It is clear that in addition to the Zionist enemy's occupation of all Palestinian territories and some other Arab territories, the enemy is expanding its influence in south Lebanon and practising pillage in this Arab country. The insolence and imprudence of the enemy have reached a point that it began to impose conditions for its "security" exceeding the territories it has occupied.

Here we declare before you all that the Arab nation categorically rejects and strongly struggles against the Zionist occupation. It is natural that the Arab nation turns down the Zionist threatenings and aggressive course and strongly denounces the illegitimate support given by the U.S. and some other imperialist circles to the Zionist entity and its hostile policies.

We are highly confident that all the Islamic peoples agree with us on this attitude and spare no effort in standing up to this imperialist entity which harbour, in this age, the worst and largest quantity of evil and aggression. They also denounce and censure with us anyone who is stretching hand to this entity and its aggressive and expansionist policy, especially the United States of America.

Your cooperative attitude, our dear brothers, will be of effective repercussions in the international community for the benefit of the good will in the world public opinion, in order to condemn the Zionist aggression and resist the Zionist and racist dogma on expansionism.

Dear brothers, we are very happy in hosting you here in Baghdad. Out of fraternal hospitality tradition, we do not like to get your conference involved in any of the issues of our own which may affect your work or your complete freedom in discussions and deliberations or in adopting the resolutions which you may consider necessary and right. Therefore, we are not intending to dwell on our conflict with Iran as we did in the summit conference in which we participated as full members and practised our right in expressing our viewpoint and giving the evidence.

The summit conference shouldered a noble important task, namely asking a committee of a number of our brothers to discharge their good offices for settling the armed conflict between Iraq and Iran and holding talks. The duty necessitates that we should express our high consideration for the arduous efforts exerted by the chairman and members of the committee of good offices who are still exerting their good will efforts.

It is of great sorrow and regret that we lose in these days the late President Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh. He (God's mercy on him) was an active member in the committee, worked hard and sincerely for the implementation of the Islamic summit resolutions to solve Iraq-Iran conflict peacefully in accordance with the principles of right and justice. We pray to the Almighty to embrace him in His unlimited mercy and may peace and tranquility prevail over the Muslim people of Bangladesh.

Exactly as I declared before our brothers, the heads of the Islamic countries at At-Ta'if conference, I confirm today that Iraq out of ability and peace-loving, is still as well as his word and his preparedness to attain peaceful, honourable and just settlement of the conflict with Iran. What Iraq only demands are its legitimate and just rights provided in international treaties and accords and according to the tangible facts of history. We are not covetous to have territories from our neighbours and we do not intend to inflict harm on them as well. What we hope is that favourable conditions may prevail in such a way that we could live peacefully with Iran, respect each other and no infringement on the sovereignty, honor and basic interests of one side could be practised by the other. Furthermore, no interference in domestic affairs may be practised by one side but it may participate with its neighbour in ensuring the prerequisites of security, stability and progress in this region. This is the task of all good-intending leaderships all over the globe.

It also occupies an exceptional significance due to the sensitiveness of our region which may affect the interests of all the Islamic peoples or rather all the peoples in the world, for conflicts may lead to grave dangers harmful to the security and stability in the region, besides flinging the doors wide open to the foreign interference and covetous intentions.

In At-Ta'if we clarified to you the historical background and the reasons of the conflict. Allah may witness that Iraq is not ethically or legally accountable for the continuity of this conflict. The rulers in Iran who did not exert any sincere and serious effort to put an end to this conflict to attain a peaceful, just and honourable settlement, are answerable before Allah, the Islamic peoples and the world for any single drop of blood shed in this conflict. We are quite confident that Allah the omnipotent who braced up our steps will stretch a helping hand to us to obtain the right.

We hope, dear friends, that your conference may participate in boosting the efforts of the committee of good offices and bless its steps in its good will mission.

In conclusion, I implore Allah the omnipotent to bless your work and your steps for the interest of the Islamic peoples and their humanitarian just causes. Allah is the only source of success.

Peace be on you.

Second Session

JN021003 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 2 Jun 81

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 2 Jun (INA)--The Islamic Conference foreign ministers resumed their work here this morning by holding an open session. The conference listened to a report compiled by Islamic Conference Organization Secretary General Habib Chatti on the General Secretariat's activities since the convocation last year of the 11th conference. The report calls for adopting measures in reply to the Zionist entity's challenges by initiating an Islamic action to thwart these challenges and to bolster the heroic struggle being waged by the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

The report calls for implementing the Jerusalem Committee's program and for giving material and moral support to the PLO. It explains that the question of establishing an Islamic office for boycotting Israel has entered its practical stage. The report says that the Islamic Conference Organization's General Secretariat has prepared a detailed working paper that includes specific proposals for implementing an ambitious working paper to boost the economic and trade ties among the Islamic countries.

The report indicates that the Mecca Declaration issued by the third Islamic Conference summit, which was held early this year, constitutes a program guiding the Islamic countries' course. The report calls for doubling efforts and endeavors to overcome Islamic divisions and to consolidate the Islamic world.

On the other hand, four subcommittees met today to lay down the bases for strong cultural, social, economic and political relations among the Islamic countries.

'ARAFAT CONFERS WITH SOVIET ENVOY TO LEBANON

NC020617 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Jun 81

[Text] Brother Commander in Chief Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] yesterday evening received Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Comrade Aleksandr Soldatov. Also present were Brothers Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid] and Hani al-Hasan, all members of the Fatah Central Committee.

The meeting dealt with the latest developments in the region in light of the Zionist military escalation against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

LEBANESE NATIONAL MOVEMENT URGES ARMY WITHDRAWAL

NC300614 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 May 81

[Text] The Lebanese National Movement has affirmed that the departure of Philip Habib from the area was tantamount to the U.S. giving the green light for the wide-scale Zionist aggression against Ad-Damur and other Lebanese areas 2 days ago.

The National Movement has called for the withdrawal of the Lebanese Army from all the contact lines on which it is stationed and has renewed its objection to entrusting this army with any security role in view of its sectarian and factional composition. In this regard the movement has affirmed its rejection of the withdrawal of the deterrent forces, which represent the army of legitimacy, from the Sannin heights and the Zahlah hills in favor of the Lebanese Army.

In its comments on the followup committee's resumption of its work, the movement has explained that the political solution to the Lebanese crisis must stem from the national accord, and the achievement of this accord is considered the correct approach to a comprehensive security plan.

LIBYANS REPORTED KILLED IN ISRAELI RAID ON LEBANON

JN301840 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1745 GMT 30 May 81

[Text] The Libyan news agency has announced the martyrdom during the recent savage Zionist aggression of four heroes of the Libyan people's strugglers who volunteered to work among the ranks of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalists.

The Libyan news agency stressed that the presence of the Libyan people's sons among the ranks of the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces is an expression of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front's solidarity with the forces fighting the Zionist aggression.

ISRAEL ACCUSED OF KILLING PLO OFFICIAL IN BELGIUM

NC011231 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Text] Zionist criminal hands this morning assassinated the PLO representative in Brussels, Struggler Na'im Khadr.

Belgian police sources say that at 1000 today fire was opened on Struggler Na'im Khadr, and that he was hit by two bullets as he was on his way to the PLO office at Roosevelt Avenue in Brussels. He was taken to a hospital but died shortly afterwards.

According to the same sources, there are conflicting reports about the number of the criminals who assassinated Na'im Khadr. One eyewitness said that the murderer jumped out of a car after committing his crime and that he was then chased by a pedestrian. Other eyewitnesses said that the murderer fled on foot and that his raincoat and umbrella were found hundreds of meters away from the scene of the incident.

The PLO office in Belgium has issued a statement accusing the Israeli intelligence of assassinating Struggler Na'im Khadr. The statement added that this incident, which was undoubtedly perpetrated by the Israeli intelligence, adds one more to the list of Palestinians who have fallen victim to Zionist attacks.

The Palestinian and Arab masses have received the assassination of Struggler Martyr Na'im Khadr with profound sorrow and grief.

In Brussels Arab League representative in Belgium Mudar al-Hazim has stated that the assassination of Na'im Khadr is considered a grave loss for the Palestinian revolution. He added that Martyr Khadr was well known in Belgium and had many friends.

Commenting on the assassination, AFP said that Martyr Na'im was a well known personality and had many friends in Belgian press and political circles.

Martyr Na'im Khadr was 41 years old. He received his education in Belgium and had been living there since 1968.

This new crime, added to the long record of Zionist terrorism, exposes to the world public opinion, and especially the European public opinion, the true identity of the terrorists who are supported by the Reagan administration. It is this Zionist terrorism which is confronted by our people through their legitimate and just struggle.

The Palestinian people and strugglers promise the martyred hero that they will continue the struggle until victory.

SAUDI ARABIA

KHADDAM DELIVERS AL-ASAD MESSAGE TO KING KHALID

LD021022 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Jun 81

[Text] Riyadh, 2 Jun (SPA)--His Exalted Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has received a written message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The message was delivered by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam when he was received in audience this morning.

The meeting was attended by the crown prince, His Royal Highness Deputy Prime Minister Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard; and His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation.

Mr Khaddam had arrived in Riyadh earlier today.

PAPERS DISPUTE MEDIATION ROLE IN 'MISSILE CRISIS'

LD011430 Riyadh SPA in English 1210 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 1 June (SPA)--Saudi Arabia's denial regarding the alleged mediation of the kingdom in solving the so-called missile crsis and the task before today's Islamic foreign minister conference in Baghdad figures for editorial comments in today's newspapers.

'UKAZ newspaper said what had been circulated by the Zionist and Western media about an alleged Saudi mediation effort to solve the so-called missile crisis was emanating from their ignorance of the kingdom's unwavering stand towards the Arab and Islamic issues.

Saudi Arabia's well-known and declared support for Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian people was responsible for the Israeli prime minister's rage and hysteria, 'UKAZ said.

The paper quoted the Syrian deputy premier and foreign minister, Mr. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's statement to AL-KHALIJ newspaper last night in which he denied the Saudi mediation and reconfirmed the Saudi support for Syria.

'UKAZ also quoted His Majesty King Khalid's and Crown Prince Fahd's conviction that peace and stability in the area could not be ensured with Israel's occupation of Arab lands and the holy Jerusalem.

On the same subject another paper AL-YAW, exclaimed how Saudi Arabia could assume the role of a mediator in the dispute when the kingdom was itself a part of it and was wholeheartedly shouldering the responsibility of defending the Arab and Islamic rights.

The paper pointed out that Israel was considering the kingdom its first enemy and was trying to block Saudi purchase of arms by every possible means. Saudi Arabia has come to be known for its courageous and wise stands and its ardent pledge to restore the Arab occupied lands and Jerusalem.

Dealing with the same subject, AL-MADINAH refuted the Israeli enemy's allegation about the Israeli-Saudi contacts for mediation in the missile crisis. The paper charged some elements were working in the dark and were attempting to distort the international image of the kingdom at a time when Saudi Arabia was preoccupied over solving the differences among the Arab and Islamic states.

UAE

U.S. POLICY ON ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT CRITICIZED

JN301618 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in English 1540 GMT 30 May 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 May (GNA)--The UAE Dubayy based English language daily GULF NEWS Saturday editorialized on the United States policy towards the Middle East and said, while reacting cautiously to the republican victory in last November's presidential polls in the United States many observers entertained the hope that Ronald Reagan in power will gradually develop a pragmatic approach towards new realities in the contemporary international situation and shed prejudices exhibited during the din and noise of electioneering.

American policies, as they are gradually unfolding now, hardly indicate any desirable adjustment in the new administration's stand on major issues.

There is absolutely no evidence of any shift in Washington's posture on the Arab-Israel conflict and the right of Palestinians to an independent state, even though Western Europe is evincing greater interest in promoting a new dialogue with the Arab world and is recognizing the need for the involvement of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in any negotiations for comprehensive settlement. Indeed, in recent talks with West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, U.S. officials appeared to be exerting new pressure on his European allies against showing [as received] any of the Arab rights.

But the latest reports from the United Nations headquarters at New York indicate that Reagan's administration is even provoking unnecessary confrontation with the Third World as a whole. It is going to the extent of threatening to implement what it calls a policy of rewards and punishment, depending on how any developing country behaves at the UN relation to the U.S. interest. [sentence as received]

It is a strange criterion to distinguish between friends and foes. American administrations in the past also behaved sometime crudely in reacting to what many developing countries had to say from time [as received] in important debates but the holier than thou attitude now adopted by the new administration seems to be alienating even many friendly countries in Asia and Africa.

PDRY

CHAIRMAN 'ALI NASIR MEETS WITH AS-SA'IQAH LEADER

LD311630 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 May 81 EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received this morning at his office in YSP Central Committee Secretariat a delegation from the Palestinian As-Sa'iqah, led by Brother Isam Qadi, secretary general of As-Sa'iqah.

During the meeting, which was also attended by Dr Ahmad Abdallah 'Abd al-Ilah, member of the YSP Central Committee and secretary of the Central Committee, a number of issues of interest to the development of bilateral relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions and cooperation between the YSP and the Palestinian As-Sa'iqah organization were discussed.

The brother secretary general briefed the Palestinian delegation on developments in the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf region and explained the dangers of imperialist provocation in the area. Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad reiterated that all forms of support for and solidarity with the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese National Movement and the Syrian Arab Republic will continue so as to resist decisively Zionist, imperialist and reactionary provocation.

YAR

PRESIDENT INTERVIEWED ON USSR TIES, OTHER ISSUES

JN291403 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 May 81

["Text" of interview granted by YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to the UAE newspaper AL-KHALIJ--date and place not given, read by announcer]

[Text] [Question] Mr President, as you are scheduled to visit the Soviet Union, what are your views on Yemeni-Soviet relations?

[Answer] Yemeni-Soviet relations are very old. They are the oldest relations between an Arab state and the Soviet Union. These relations are developing and continuing, and are based on the principle of mutual respect and joint cooperation between the Yemeni people and the peoples of the USSR. These relations serve the cause of peaceful coexistence and the development and progress of humanity.

[Question] Does this visit, in conjunction with the visit of the Kuwaiti foreign minister to Moscow, constitute a change in the relations between the Soviet Union and the states in the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula?

[Answer] We do not think so, because we look forward to developing the technical and economic relations between our country and the Soviet Union. This does not in any way mean a change or transformation in our external foreign policy, which is principled, firm and based on strict adherence to the principle of positive neutrality and nonalignment, and on the rejection of alliances and blocs and all sorts of foreign interference. In any answer to the first question, I made it clear that our relations with the Soviet Union are very old and extend over the past 51 years. We make a point of having relations with all the states in the world in the supreme Yemeni interest and in order to preserve our special place on the map of international cooperation.

[Question] What is Yemen's opinion with regard to President Brezhnev's initiative on the neutrality of the Gulf and the Indian Ocean, and what are practical propositions that may be implemented in order to preserve the region from international power struggles?

[Answer] Unfortunately, we take no notice of issues that are of interest to us unless our attention is drawn to them by others, or unless other people talk about them, despite the fact that we in the YAR have (?warned) about many problems before others. We in the YAR had, and continue to have, our own views on the security of the Gulf, Red Sea and Indian Ocean. The Soviet president's initiative follows that same path which we had stressed. On several occasions we called for preserving these areas from an international power struggle and ambitions, and for keeping them free from any form of foreign military presence. We clearly affirmed that those who could protect the security and peace in this region are its states and people, because any interference by foreign quarters means the creation of pretexts and justifications for the ruin and destruction of the region as a result of international struggles. We are still adhering to this policy in order to keep the region out of international power struggles and external influence.

[Question] Following the declaration which brought forth the Gulf Coordination and Cooperation Council, certain views were expressed which criticized the exclusion of Yemen from this council. What are Yemen's views on this issue? Do you have defined proposals to include Yemen in this council?

[Answer] We are not displeased at the exclusion of Yemen from the Gulf Coordination and Cooperation Council. We are connected with many Gulf states through bilateral councils for coordination and cooperation, encompassing all fields. The issue of the Gulf Council is still the subject of our consideration and careful study.

[Question] What are your views concerning the PDRY proposal on holding a summit conference for the states in the Gulf, the Arabian Peninsula and the Red Sea, and why was there no agreement on this issue?

[Answer] Undoubtedly, such a conference is important in these circumstances through which the region and the Arab nation are passing. Such a conference remains a valid proposition, and I hope that it will not be mere talk in the media.

[Question] Currently there is a dialogue between the Yemeni Government and various Yemeni sides aimed at building equitable national relations for the sake of Yemeni development. What are your ideas concerning a Yemeni national reconciliation in the northern part of Yemen which will be suitable to the status quo?

[Answer] Our view is that there must be strict commitment of sincere allegiance to the Yemeni territory, people and revolution, and there must be rejection of all external connections which drop people in the mire of agentry and national treason.

[Question] Some people say that if North and South Yemen are united in their political decision and foreign policy, the region will be led to a better future. Do you think that the unity measures are satisfactory? We hear that there are certain forces which do not want such a unity. Is it time that we understand the true developments in the unity steps?

[Answer] Undoubtedly, the achievement of Yemeni unity constitutes an important part of the strength of the area in which we live. Unity will stop the weakness of this area. In our view, Yemeni unity is an advanced step toward achieving Arab unity and strengthening Arab solidarity. We think that the unity measures which have been taken through agreement and understanding with the brothers in the southern part of the homeland are not our final target. I mean that they are not enough, but are basic and important blocks in the great unity. This completely reassures us about the continued steps toward unity at present and guarantees the achievement of unity in the future on strong and sound bases that will grant it stability and durability. There is no foreign power which objects to establishment of Yemeni unity.

[Question] Preparations are underway on all political levels for the coming elections. When will the elections be held and what are your views on the candidates? Will they be contesting individually or [word indistinct] defined election programs?

[Answer] The date of the elections will be fixed following the completion of the national charter. The elections will be based on this charter, which will be considered a theory of political action. Undoubtedly, the charter will contain answers on the nature of the elections which will reflect democracy as outlined by it. However, every Yemeni individual has the right to run in the elections, and to be freely elected within the principles stipulated by the electoral law.

AS-SADAT SAID TO CABLE BEGIN ON MISSILES CRISIS

LD291047 Brussels LE SOIR in French 27 May 81 p 3

[Unattributed report: "As-Sadat to Begin: Settle the Crisis With Syria To Prevent Russian Presence in the Near East"]

[Excerpt] President as-Sadat has sent Prime Minister Begin an urgent message asking him to do the impossible to end the crisis with Syria "as quickly as possible" in order to prevent an international conference being held on Lebanon with the USSR's participation.

This is what Victor Cygielman, our correspondent in Israel, has learned from a usually well-informed source.

The Egyptian president stressed three points:

1--Lebanon must become "Lebanese" again; the Syrian, Palestinian and also Israeli forces must leave Lebanese territory.
2--Whatever happens Egypt "will not allow itself to be drawn into a war against Israel."
3--Egypt and Israel have a common interest in ending this crisis as quickly as possible through the good offices of the United States. If Philip Habib's mission were to fail Washington would be obliged to accept the Soviet proposal for an international conference, especially if Israel launches an offensive--even a limited offensive--to destroy the Syrian missiles.

"The failure of the U.S. mediation will open the door to the Russians," President as-Sadat writes, "and we must prevent that at all costs."

GHALI URGES THAT AUSTRALIA JOIN SINAI FORCE

OW291109 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0712 GMT 28 May 81

[From Focus on Australia program]

[Text] Egypt's Government has strongly urged Australia to contribute to the proposed multinational peacekeeping force to be stationed in the Sinai to supervise Israel's withdrawal from the area. After meeting with Australia's ambassador to Egypt, Mr Pierre Hutton, the Egyptian minister for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali, told Cairo correspondent Paul Martin why he is calling on Australia to join the international effort:

[Begin recording] [Ghali] First, because Australia has experience of United Nations troops in the region, and secondly, because Australia is a very important country. And the role of Australia will not be limited to the presence of the United Nations--of the multinational forces. It could play a very important diplomatic role. They were a member of the internationalization of the Suez Canal in 1956. [words indistinct] The presence of an Australian battalion--which again will be very symbolic--will certainly help to maintain the Australian presence in the Middle East.

[Question] But will it not antagonize or seem to antagonize Australia's other friends in the Middle East? Saudi Arabia for example and the Arab countries?

[Answer] I do not believe because the Arab countries understand quite well that what you are doing is to obtain the withdrawal of the Israelis from the Egyptian territory, and Egyptian territory after all is an Arab territory.

[Question] Then why are the Arabs opposing the establishment of a United Nations peacekeeping force?

[Answer] [Passage indistinct], and we have no real proof. Certain extremist or certain Arab rejectionist countries were opposed, but certainly not the moderate Arab countries.

[Question] So you think Saudi Arabia and the moderate Arab countries are actually in favor of this peacekeeping force?

[Answer] I do not say this, but I will say that if they understand what is the interest of peace, they will not be against this kind of multinational forces.

[Question] Are you saying it will not harm Australia's interests in Saudi Arabia and other countries if they take part?

[Answer] Yes.

[Question] The Australian opposition has criticized the move, and the Australian opposition leader even said that Australia would be getting itself involved in a potential Vietnam if it came and took part.

[Answer] I will say this is not the [words indistinct] because as I said a few minutes ago, the participation will be a very symbolic participation. And those multinational forces [words indistinct] to supervise the implementation of certain principles of the treaty. They would never participate in any kind of military action. [end recording]

KNESSET DELEGATION MEETS WITH OFFICIALS, DEPARTS

Ad-Din Reception

NC011413 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (MENA)--This afternoon Deputy Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din received at his office the Israeli parliamentary delegation, led by Knesset Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Moshe Arens.

The Israeli delegation pointed out the importance of the summit meeting to be held between President Anwar as-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin in Sharm ash-Shaykh on Thursday and the effect of this meeting on the political development in the area.

Dr Muhyi ad-Din answered the Israeli delegation's inquiries about the Egyptian Government's efforts in the fields of food, security, housing and economic and social development.

Muhyi ad-Din explained that the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel is proceeding in accordance with the agreements concluded between them. He said that this must continue within a political framework and that it is important to encourage the exchange of visits and delegations between the two countries.

'Ali Meeting

NC011707 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (MENA)--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today met with the Israeli Knesset delegation, which is currently visiting Egypt.

During the meeting, which lasted about 2 hours, a discussion took place during which Kamal Hasan 'Ali affirmed that the Palestinian problem is the basis and the crux of the Middle East problem, and that in order to find a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the area it is necessary to achieve a just solution to the Palestinian issue. The foreign minister pointed out that the Palestinian issue was one reason for the Soviet presence in the area and that solving this problem will be a reason for the Soviets to leave the area. 'Ali said that Egypt and Israel have a major responsibility as two states which have accepted peace as a goal in the area. He added: We are making history after the Camp David accords. It is the joint responsibility of Egypt and Israel to lay down the basis of a comprehensive, just and permanent peace in the area. This means creating all the possibilities and capabilities for coexistence between the Israeli people and the neighboring Arab peoples.

Explaining the meaning of justice with regard to the Palestinian issue, 'Ali said: It means putting yourself in the place of the other and accepting the situation of the other for yourself. He added: We must prepare the way for the participation of any Arab party, especially the Palestinians, in the solution.

In his conversation with the Israeli Knesset delegation, 'Ali affirmed that the Israeli actions in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, with regard to the establishment of settlements or the issue of Jerusalem, are absolutely contrary to the spirit and principles of Camp David. They are also considered a deviation from the course of peace and an aggravation of the situation in the West Bank.

As an example, 'Ali cited the presence of about 4,000 Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli jails in addition to the continuation of the Israeli military occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Israel's continued refusal to solve the problem of Dayr as-Sultan, [coptic monastery in Jerusalem], and its failure to take confidence-building measures which Egypt has requested, including the opening of the borders for Palestinian families who left in the wake of the 1967 war.

Foreign Minister 'Ali said that the Palestinian issue will have to be solved, because no one can imagine the continuation of the occupation and the rule by force of some 1.3 million Palestinians.

'Ali added: Israel is still looking at the question of security from the standpoint of war and not peace--that is, from your standpoint only and not as a matter of interest to all the parties. You confuse the concept of security in a state of war and the concept of security in a state of peace.

He said: Egypt must make an attempt with the Palestinians to form a provisional Palestinian government in order to have some sort of commitment, and Israel must prepare the way for coexistence and confidence building.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali affirmed that the Israeli actions in Lebanon are the cause of instability in northern Israel, and that the Israeli actions against the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have led to condemnation by the whole world and all the international organizations.

'Ali said: Suitable conditions must be created in order to be able to devote ourselves to confronting the dangers coming from the north or east.

'Ali reviewed with the Israeli delegation the achievements that have been made between Egypt and Israel. He said: You must guide Israeli public opinion toward the peace process and coexistence with all the Arab states.

He said: What has been accomplished between Egypt and Israel can serve as an example to be followed with the other Arab states.

'Ali Statement

NC011534 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that the discussions between President Anwar as-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin on Thursday will deal with the situation in Lebanon. He added that Egypt works for the establishment of peace in Lebanon because the acts of violence and armed struggle are not in the interests of the states in the region.

'Ali explained that Israel's withdrawal from Sinai in April next year will be a symbol of the establishment of peace not only between Egypt and Israel, but also between Israel and the other Arab states. He said that Egypt works toward the realization of the Camp David goals and the solution of the Palestinian problem, the essence of the Middle East conflict. 'Ali made these statements following his meeting with the Israeli Knesset delegation today. He explained that the peace Egypt seeks is a peace based on justice and a peace that would guarantee the legitimate rights of the various sides and provide a solution to the Palestinian problem.

'Ali stressed that the Israeli actions in Lebanon led to instability in the region. He said that these actions conflict with the spirit of Camp David and he demands that Israel create the appropriate atmosphere for the participation of the Palestinians and the Arab states concerned in the peace process.

1 Jun Departure

NC012035 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2026 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Excerpt] Cairo, 1 Jun (MENA)--The Israeli Knesset delegation led by Moshe Arens, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs Committee, left Cairo this evening for home at the conclusion of a 1-week visit to Egypt.

UNIONS FEDERATION ISSUES STATEMENT ON JERUSALEM

NC011008 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (MENA)--The General Federation of Trade Unions has called on the kings and heads of the Islamic and Arab states to shoulder their religious and national responsibilities by stopping the aggression on the holy places in Jerusalem and reaffirms their Arab character. It pointed out that what is needed now is a firm stand to put an end to the violations carried out by the Israeli occupation authorities with the aim of obliterating the Islamic character of Jerusalem and concealing its Arab features.

In a statement issued today on the occasion of the anniversary of the prophet's night journey and ascension, the federation urged the League of Islamic and Arab Peoples to work for the unification of Islamic and Arab ranks and to ask the United Nations to implement the resolutions on the protection of Jerusalem.

The statement added: "The city of Jerusalem has since 1948, and to this day, been subjected to a series of violations by the Israeli occupation authorities aimed at obliterating the Islamic character of Jerusalem and concealing its Arab features. Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Christian holy places in the city have also been the target of a series of Israeli actions, meant to fulfill the Israeli claims falsifying the Islamic and Arab history of the city of Jerusalem. The time has come for us to take a firm stand to stop all these violations."

In its statement, the General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions called on the workers and peoples of the world to take positive steps toward the protection and maintenance of the Islamic and Christian holy places in Jerusalem, which are threatened with disintegration and loss. The statement also called on the workers and people of the Arab homeland to rise to the level of serious and sincere solidarity for the liberation of Jerusalem and all the occupied territories and for the preservation of the sanctity and Arabism of Jerusalem, the destination of the last prophet, Muhammad. May God's blessings and peace be upon him and the burial place of martyred companions.

AL-JUMHURIYAH VIEWS ISRAELI JERUSALEM STATEMENT

NC020940 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 2 Jun 81

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH comment today on the Israeli Government statement that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the Israeli Government, by merely releasing a two-sentence statement that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel, cannot deny the rights of the Arabs, the owners of the city, and the rights of all the believers in the three holy religions. The paper says that since the autonomy talks stumbled, Egypt stressed that none of the negotiating parties has the right to set preconditions or consider any issue outside the framework of the negotiations.

Menahem Begin has always reiterated his principle--in an attempt to attract the Arabs to sit down with Israel--that everything is *negotiable* and that all the Arabs had to do is to come and sit down to decide everything at the negotiation table. The paper says that the Israeli Government's insistence in considering Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel is a kind of elimination of this principle and giving one party the right to decide what is negotiable and not negotiable.

The paper continues: Begin and his government notice that the Arabs differ over many issues but are agreed on one--Jerusalem. Those who have approved the Camp David accords and the peace treaty--foremost Egypt--considered regaining Jerusalem together with the occupied Arab territory as a basic goal, a matter which Egypt insisted be out on record in the appendices to these agreements. Those who rejected the Camp David agreements and the peace treaty also considered the regaining of Jerusalem as their goal. This also applies t billion Muslims throughout the world.

In conclusion, AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses the belief that the fate of Jerusalem will not be determined by statements but at the negotiations table.

MUSTAFA AMIN CONDEMNS REPORTED SYRIAN MASSACRES

LD010807 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 May 81 p 16

[Mustafa Amin column: "Idea"]

[Text] I am with Syria if Israel attacks human rights and treats Syrians like dogs. That I am an Arab does not mean that I should remain silent over crimes committed against women who are raped, children who are massacred, honors that are violated and freedoms that are suppressed because the criminal is an Arab.

On 18 April special Syrian Army units and Brigade 47 of the Syrian Army encircled the town of Hamah and the neighboring villages. They ransacked the town, searched every house, disrobed every woman, stole from every house, struck every man, slapped the face of every young man, took four young men from every family to the top of high rise building and threw then off as the people watched. The number of those killed in one week totaled 336. They threw 114 women and girls into Ar-Rastan women's prison. Lt Col Sulayman Jadid of the defense squads was in command of the soldiers who attacked the women, raped them and then killed them with machineguns.

On 24 April the Syrian Army units asked households to send the children to a certain bakery in town to buy bread. Some 27 children went to the bakery and when the gathered there Lieutenant Ahmad gave the order to fire and machineguns opened fire killing the 27 children, who were no older than 12 years.

This crime, which no free Arab or anybody in the world can remain silent over, is unprecedented in Arab history; no ugly massacre like it has happened before. We call on every Arab government to send a factfinding commission to the town of Aleppo [as published] and call on the human rights commission to investigate this massacre. We also call on the United Nations to put an end to this blatant violation of the human rights charter.

What is the purpose of these ugly crimes? Is it to drive the Syrian people to deny God and worship Satan? Or is it to wipe out Islam and turn this desperate people into atheists? Or is the purpose to turn this people with a great past into a fifth column that would prefer Israel's rule to the bloody and terrible rule of Hafiz al-Asad?

People cannot be ruled with steel and fire, or with the whip, or with scaffolds, tanks and guns. They are ruled by justice, democracy and human rights.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 355

JN011739 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Communique No 355 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 1 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With capability and enthusiasm, our armed forces continued their activities in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today with the following results:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Our forward units clashed with a group of enemy infantry in the Nowsud region and forced it to retreat, leaving behind 13 dead.

B. Our units hit with various weapons enemy troop concentrations and positions in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region, killing 16 and destroying 7 infantry positions, 1 fieldgun and 1 ammunition stockpile. Our units discovered one intact enemy rocket launcher left behind by the enemy in previous battles.

C. Seven were killed and one vehicle was destroyed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.

D. Enemy troop concentrations were sighted opposite our units' positions in the Mehran region. Our units destroyed one enemy observation post in the same region.

E. Five were killed and one infantry position, two vehicles, one observation post and one ammunition stockpile were destroyed in the Dezful region.

F. One infantry position was destroyed in the Shush region.

G. Seven were killed and two armored personnel carriers and two fieldguns destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region.

H. Our units hit with various weapons enemy troops and positions in the Abadan region, killing nine and destroying three infantry positions, two vehicles--and of which was laden with ammunition--two observation posts and seven ammunition stockpiles.

Thus, total known enemy losses amounted to 76 dead, 12 infantry positions, 2 armored personnel carriers, 3 fieldguns, 5 vehicles, 1 rocket launcher, 4 observation posts and 9 ammunition stockpiles.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 2 martyrs in all sectors.

B. In equipment: Two personnel carriers and one armored vehicle were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 1 June 1981

AL-WAZZAN VIEWS ARMY IN SOUTH, ARAB COMMITTEE

NC011337 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Unidentified radio correspondent's interview with Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan in Beirut on 1 June--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Prime Minister, on the occasion of the dispatch of the last batch of the Lebanese Army to the south, is this the final step in this connection and is there an inclination to rely on the army to undertake other missions?

[Answer] In fact, the dispatch of the last batch to the south complements the Lebanese Army forces' deployment in UNIFIL's area of operations and under UNIFIL's orders. With this step we have put before the United Nations its responsibility to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425 and to help restore the legitimate Lebanese authority in the area and liberate the border enclave.

At a later stage, we hope we will be able to send additional forces to the south outside UNIFIL's areas of operations. However, this must wait until the army is rebuilt and becomes prepared on all levels so that it will be capable, effective and oriented in a way which will win the confidence of everybody.

I have always said that the army establishment is the required national model for all Lebanon. Whenever we succeed in producing this model in the required national way, we achieve for Lebanon a solid foundation and a strong shield. Before this is achieved, it is unfair to expose this army to any jolts through missions that do not receive the necessary national consensus. For this reason, I have not approved up to now several missions which some want the army to undertake. Within this framework and concept I am trying to correct some situations out of concern for the army in this stage of its rebuilding.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, regarding the Arab followup committee, will it be a substitute for Lebanese-Syrian cooperation in achieving national accord and implementing Arab resolutions?

[Answer] Lebanese-Syrian cooperation, which has passed through several stages since the outbreak of events in Lebanon, is continuing--especially following the summit meeting held between Presidents Sarkis and Al-Asad in Damascus about 2 months ago, which I attended. This meeting resulted in a determination to continue to work for stopping bloodshed and achieving national accord in Lebanon.

The reactivation of the followup committee on the foreign ministers level--as called for by the recent Tunis resolutions--is not a substitute for the continuing Lebanese-Syrian cooperation. Rather, it complements this cooperation which we all hope will result in security, stability and national accord.

UN AMBASSADOR INTERVIEWED ON CURRENT SITUATION

LD011529 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 30 May-5 Jun 81 pp 20, 21

[Interview granted by Lebanese UN Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni to AL-MAJALLAH correspondent in New York--date not given]

[Text] [Question] The world's countries hold consultations about Lebanon and this is often done without consulting the Lebanese themselves. What do the Lebanese want to achieve?

[Answer] What interests us most of all is the restoration of peace in Lebanon. We do not wish, as a result of what is happening now, for Lebanon to become the scene of confrontation between Israel and Syria or, even worse, between the United States and the Soviet Union.

[Question] Is there a grave danger that the situation might so develop?

[Answer] We believe that the Lebanese have suffered enough during the years of war and we feel that the Arab Deterrent Force [ADF] should limit its military activity and the activity of its combat units in a manner that would ensure that a war which the Lebanese do not want and which does not serve the interests of peace in Lebanon will not break out. I am, of course, speaking about the Syrian forces, the ADF. The Syrians, who form the whole of the ADF, must be careful not to be driven into an action that nobody wants.

[Question] Do you believe that the ADF should be expanded so as to include other Arab forces or that there is need to form a multinational force in Lebanon under the United Nations?

[Answer] Lebanon has always called for the need to restore the multinational character of the ADF in that there should be other Arab units included in this force, which should not be 100 percent Syrian. The confidence in the ADF--let alone in its deterrent ability--has been acutely eroded. Its compliance with the orders of the Lebanese authority is doubtful just as there are doubts about its identity as Arab and its lack of bias in favor of a certain state.

[Question] Will the expansion of the ADF solve this problem?

[Answer] Many Lebanese feel that adding other Arab elements is not enough and that it would be a better idea to have a mixture of Arab and UN peacekeeping forces whose activities should cover the whole of Lebanon. This is in view of the mutual relationship between the war in the south and the present situation in Al-Biqa' and also because the security of all Lebanon must be dealt with comprehensively. There is need for such a force to protect Lebanon against further crises and future periodic explosions.

[Question] Is there an opportunity for reconciliation between the Lebanese factions?

[Answer] Yes, certainly. Once these factions stop acting--whether directly or indirectly--at the prompting of outside forces, they will find the means to settle their disputes.

[Question] Even if their disputes are as bitter as they are?

[Answer] The old context of civil war between Christians and Muslims has become a side issue. The fighting in Zahlah was between a Christian town and the Syrian forces and not between Muslims and Christians. It is true that there are still tensions between Muslims and Christians but they do not reach the point of confrontation. They are all Lebanese.

[Question] But doesn't reconciliation call for reconstructing the general basic structure of the Lebanese regime?

[Answer] No, not necessarily. But there must be a reform of the basic structure. The question of this or that person assuming this or that government post is indeed of no importance if measured against the need to prevent Lebanon becoming an international battlefield. Moreover, there is a new spirit of unity that has emerged in Lebanon.

[Question] What are the most urgent things needed in Lebanon now?

[Answer] What the Lebanese need more than anything else is to be left alone, to be allowed to tend their wounds and to enjoy at least the same amount of peace that the other Arab countries are enjoying. In the absence of a collective Arab decision on peace, there is no reason that Lebanon should be the only confrontation front with Israel. Lebanon does not wish to be so. On the contrary, Lebanon wants to achieve unity and integrity for itself.

[Question] Do you believe that reconciliation is just around the corner?

[Answer] It will be some time before there is a disengagement. There is, for example, the question of legal authority concerning the armed forces. There must be new security arrangements with the Palestinians. It is also necessary to strengthen Lebanese unity to some degree under the protection of the UN peacekeeping forces. There is also another thing, namely that Israel must give up its policy of striking at the Palestinians in Lebanon.

[Question] Does not much of this depend on the attitude of the Palestinians?

[Answer] The Palestinians must accept a general Arab consensus on whether the Arabs prefer to fight a war or hold peace negotiations. Definitely it is impossible to fight such war from southern Lebanon through the PLO alone.

[Question] Can it be said that Lebanon's peace and peace in the whole Middle East are two closely linked issues?

[Answer] We have always been told that no peace can be established in Lebanon without establishing peace in the Middle East and that there can be no peace in the Middle East without solving the Palestine problem. This linkage may seem to be right to some people but from a practical standpoint this linkage is unethical and unrealistic. It is unethical because a country cannot be obliged to live and wait on the sidelines until the war of every man and of every revolutionary is completed. It is unrealistic because Lebanon has always been the arena in which all the wars and revolutions in the Arab world have been reflected. Therefore, the return of peace to Lebanon, the return of Lebanon to reason and the return to dialogue are not the end of the peace process but will be, and should be, the beginning of it.

[Question] But doesn't peace now seem distant?

[Answer] At present the Israelis are dealing blows against the Palestinians. They are blows sufficient to cause harm but they are careful, especially during the presence of Soviet and U.S. envoys in the area, not to let this lead to a total confrontation. But Lebanon is, unfortunately, the only victim of all this.

[Question] Is there a danger of a partition of Lebanon?

[Answer] Yes, I believe there is a danger of a partition. What is happening now is a process of gradual fragmentation by the fighting parties. Certainly this partitioning will not be the voluntary choice of any Lebanese, despite the fact that it has become a reality merely by the progress of events. In any case we all must go through an interim period before we restore total unity and coordination, as certain steps must be taken regarding the implementation of the system of local government and decentralization in order to help in healing the physical and psychological wounds caused by the war. This is something that seems about to happen but much depends on our speed in changing the present trend. We need international participation to curb regional and international conflict in Lebanon and this can be achieved through coordinated action by the United States, Russia, some European countries and other parties concerned. But this is not exactly President Brezhnev's proposal. The Soviet president wants a special conference in order to find a comprehensive solution for the Middle East problem, but we believe that Lebanon should not be forced to wait for a comprehensive solution because if war in Lebanon continues we do not think that there will be any chance for a comprehensive peaceful settlement in the Middle East. The situation in Lebanon constitutes a danger not only to Lebanon alone but to many other Middle Eastern countries and to the whole world.

LEBANESE FORCES REJECT RESIDENTIAL SHELLING

NC011953 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 Jun 81

[1 June statement issued by the official spokesman of the Lebanese forces command--read by announcer]

[Text] The Lebanese forces command has ascertained that there is an attempt to involve the country in an operation of shelling and countershelling residential quarters so as to revive the hatred on both sides and to make the people at home and abroad believe that the war taking place in our country is a civil war, while in reality it is a war of resistance to occupation and a war of sovereignty and independence. Therefore, the command deemed it necessary to announce its absolute commitment not to expose the residential quarters to any shelling by its armed forces, even if the quarters of the eastern sector of Beirut are subjected to such attacks on innocent people.

In doing so, the command hopes to expose the side that intentionally causes bloodshed in this barbaric manner. It also hopes to have the cooperation of the official and unofficial quarters in helping to control this anarchy, even in a partial manner. Moreover, the Lebanese forces command does not forget its other and absolute commitment to reply to any attack against its positions with all types of weapons.

VOL REPORTS MILITARY ACTIVITY IN CAPITAL, SOUTH

NC020852 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 2 Jun 81

[Text] About 30 minutes ago, the Ad-Dawwar area started to be subjected to artillery fire from Duhur ash-Shuwayr. The situation in the capital and its suburbs seems calm now, although intermittent bursts of sniper fire are heard along the contact lines.

At 0930 today, Israeli warplanes flew over the capital, breaking the sound barrier.

In Zahlah, at 0800 today the Syrian tanks in Al-Karak in Ksarah shelled the industrial estate and Hawsh al-Umara' with an average of two shells per minute. It was learned that the (At-Turk) and (Sharbil) building and the nursery were set ablaze by last night's shelling and that the Red Cross center was destroyed by 16 shells. About 1,500 artillery shells and rockets fell yesterday on Al-Biqa's capital, Zahlah.

Syrian warplanes have been seen making preparations in Riyaq Airfield this morning.

In southern Lebanon, Israeli warplanes have intensified their routine flights over the area, while Israeli forces are reinforcing their military positions within Lebanese territory.

Palace, Dean's House Shelled

NC011808 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Excerpt] Two Lebanese soldiers, ('Ali Salih) and ('Abbas Nasir), and 2 civilians were killed and 5 soldiers and 15 civilians were wounded in Al-Hadath today. In Ad-Dawrah, three children, (George), (Raniyah) and (Ghadah Tayi'), were killed and a large number of others were wounded on the rest of the capital's axes and eastern areas from Sodeco to Al-Hadath, as well as in Al-Ashrajiyah, "Ayn ar-Rummanah, Furn ash-Shubbak, Sinn al-Fil and Al-Bawshariyah, which are all under Syrian and Palestinian shelling at this time.

The shelling did not spare the Republican Palace, which received direct hits. The residence of U.S. Ambassador John Gunther Dean also was the target of shelling at 1840 today.

Zahlah has been coming under the most violent Syrian shelling ever. The number of casualties caused by the shelling, which hit one of the Caritas relief centers in the city, is still unknown. The Syrian shelling also covered the mountain area, particularly (Mazra'at Kafr Dhubyan) and Bqa'tuta.

VOL REPORTS VIOLENCE IN SYRIAN TOWNS, PROVINCES

NC011410 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Text] Muslim Brotherhood gunmen have attacked a bus transporting Syrian soldiers in the Al-Ashrafiyah quarter in Aleppo [in northern Syria]. The gunmen attacked the bus with handgrenades and machineguns, killing 15 soldiers and wounding several others. The gunmen also blew up a building in the same quarter, killing three intelligence service men and four boys.

In the province of Idlib, army units carried out a search campaign. They arrested five suspects and executed them in the street. Following that, the citizens blocked the roads with burning tires as a sign of protest.

Following prayers at 1230 on Friday, a popular demonstration was staged in the quarters of Aleppo to protest the acts of murder being committed in the town. The army opened fire at the demonstrators, wounding many.

Emigration is continuing from Hamah because of the acts of violence and following the killing of 50 people last week, as a result of helicopter attacks and the forcible conscription of reservists who are above 17 years of age. In (Al-Kallasi), (Bab al-Mayrab) and (Karm Muyassar) the situation is still tense following the Syrian artillery attacks on these quarters.

HADDAD COMMENTS ON SYRIAN REASONS FOR SHELLING

NC020831 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Jun 81

[Text] We begin our newscast with free Lebanon Commander Maj Sa'd Haddad's reply to a report in the Syrian newspaper TISHRIN, which mentions the Syrian regime's determination to retaliate for the Israeli bombardment of the saboteur bases in Ad-Damur. Major Haddad said: No doubt, the current Syrian shelling is in retaliation for the Israeli bombardment. They are shelling the eastern parts of Beirut, besieging and shelling Zahlah, evacuating the Christians from areas under Syrian occupation, secretly urging the saboteurs to finish off the Amal Movement with the aim of evacuating the Shi'ites from sothern Lebanon and exterminating the sons of the Sunni sect in Homs, Hamah, Aleppo, Latakia and other Syrian towns. From the point of view of the Syrian rulers, this is the best retaliation against Israel.

Anyway, we know that the Syrian reply is meant for local consumption--to deceive the saboteurs and to reassure them, now that the saboteurs have lost all confidence in the Syrian 'Alawite regime. The saboteurs have discovered that the Syrian regime is plotting against their existence. Haddad continued: If Syria had the intention to defend the saboteurs, as it alleges, it would have intervened in their favor long ago--as the saying goes: "You must have clouds to have rain."

Therefore, to the saboteurs I repeat my advice not to be taken by surprise from now on by the Syrian deception and mendacity; to refrain from any desperate military activity, lay down arms and return safely to their camps or go to the rich Arab countries to earn their living by hard work and sweat.

TISHRIN OUTLINES REQUISITES FOR HABIB'S NEXT TOUR

JN020713 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Jun 81

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The new Tour of Envoy Habib," TISHRIN writes: U.S. President Ronald Reagan's administration has decided to dispatch its special envoy Mr Philip Habib again to the area. A few days ago, envoy Habib briefed President Reagan on his mission and the outcome of his contacts. President Reagan made a statement praising the outcome, describing it as having worked a miracle that prevented the outbreak of war at a time when the area was on the brink of it for a period of 3 weeks.

Apparently, Washington's assessment of the outcome of the U.S. envoy's efforts is different from that of Tel Aviv. At a time when Reagan had enthusiastically praised the outcome, Begin said that the U.S. diplomat had so far failed to achieve any of his objectives in the efforts aimed at solving the crisis. There could be no dispute between Washington and Tel Aviv over Habib's mission, over the rule entrusted to this mission and over the outcome desired from this mission, but the conflicting statements made here or there are only attempting to reach the same goal by different means. The Israeli threats and Begin's warnings that his country will only grant a limited time for the continuation of the U.S. diplomatic efforts to solve the crisis of the Syrian missiles in Lebanon are a kind of pressure to pave the way for Habib's second tour which will begin in the Middle East this week, according to the U.S. State Department.

As far as Syria is concerned, its stand on Habib's mission is crystal clear. It is a stand which is well known to Habib, Washington and world and Arab public opinions. No statements, warnings, respites or threats will influence Syria's stand or will they pave the way for the mission.

Continuing, TISHRIN says: If Habib wants his mission to help or contribute positively to the question of peace, security and stability in the Middle East, Habib should then answer the following two specific questions: Is or is not Lebanon an independent and sovereign state and a UN member? Are or are not the Arab Deterrent Forces deployed in Lebanon legitimate forces? The U.S. envoy's answers to these questions will define the chances of success or those of failure before him. They will also show whether his mission is sincere or insincere in the work for the sake of peace, security and stability in the area.

If Washington acknowledges that Lebanon is an independent and sovereign state, this acknowledgement should be linked with the realization that this state's airspace, waters and territories should not be violated or attacked, that nobody should be allowed to exercise sovereignty over Lebanon's land and that international law should be applied to Lebanon as it is applied to other states. Needless to say, all this dictates a denunciation of any violation of Lebanon's sovereignty, be it in the air, on land or at sea. This means denouncing the continued Israeli attacks on Lebanon and working to halt these attacks. The United States has the capability and resources to affect Israel's stand in a crucial manner.

TISHRIN says: If Washington admits that the Arab Deterrent Forces are legitimate forces deployed in Lebanon upon a Lebanese and Arab decision, this admission would cancel any step to oppose the work of these forces within the context of Lebanese legality. This also would cancel any objection to the number, armament, mission and deployment of these forces.

If Washington recognize Lebanon's independence, sovereignty and the inviolability of Lebanon's land, waters and airspace, and if it bases the efforts of its envoy on this recognition, then an appropriate base can be secured to fend off the causes of tension and trouble as well as the threat of war and to make envoy Habib's efforts and those of Washington proceed toward the source of tension and trouble and the threat of war, namely, toward Israel, whose prime minister started again to speak on his own behalf and on that of Israeli opposition leader Peres about military options if all diplomatic ways of solving the crisis of the Syrian missiles in Lebanon are exhausted. Therefore, what Washington wants, the Israeli Government also wants. This is a well known matter that needs no explanation.

In addition, TISHRIN says: But if the United States does not recognize Lebanon's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, as well as the inviolability of its airspace and waters, and if it does not recognize that the deterrent forces are legitimate forces in Lebanon, that Lebanon's affairs belong to the Lebanese and that Israel has nothing to do with them, then its envoy's mission is doomed to failure and it is responsible for Israel's attacks, crimes and threats to peace and even for Israel's setting the area afire. It should be made clear that the so-called crisis of the Syrian missiles in Lebanon is a fabricated uproar that has nothing to do with the essence of the problem in Lebanon. The missiles are surface-to-air missiles and are purely a defensive weapon. Anyone who seeks peace and who does not violate laws cannot oppose these missiles, make complaints against them or consider them as endangering him. Not a single patriotic Lebanese or Arab citizen will submit to Israel's alleged rights to control Lebanese airspace and consider Lebanon's airspace, waters and land an extension or its security zone. Nobody will accept Israeli objections to armament or deployment of Arab forces in an Arab land.

If we accept Israeli logic, it is then the right of the Arabs, who on many occasions were subjected to Israeli aggressive wars, to destroy the Israeli atomic reactors in Dimona and other places and to destroy the nuclear and chemical research centers in Rehovot as well the centers for the development and manufacture of weapons everywhere in Israel.

The Arabs have announced on many occasions, as did President Hafiz al-Asad in his recent interview with the U.S. television networks, that they do not want war and that they want a just and durable peace. However, if the war is imposed and the aggression is launched, Syria will do its best so that the aggression will backfire on those who launched it and so that the aggressors and their defenders will pay a high price for their aggression. Syria possesses a great potential to achieve this.

KHADDAM LEAVES FOR RIYADH WITH AL-ASAD MESSAGE

JN020920 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 2 Jun 81

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Damascus for Riyadh this morning with a message from President Hafiz al-Asad for His majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia.

BEGIN ON TIME LIMIT, DESTRUCTION OF MISSILES

TA011825 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Text] The prime minister said today that if it turns out that all the efforts to move the Syrian missiles out of Lebanon's Al-Biqa' region by diplomatic means fail and all the elements engaged in the matter reach this conclusion, Israel will have no choice but to launch a military operation to destroy the missiles. In a U.S. television interview Menahem Begin said that we can destroy these missiles within 2 hours. Israel has not done this as yet, because it seeks to resolve the issue by diplomatic means, but the Syrians cannot prevent us from destroying the missiles.

Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that Menahem Begin today stressed for the first time that there must be a limit to Israel's patience regarding diplomatic efforts to solve the crisis. The prime minister stressed that Israel has never made a commitment to the Christians in Lebanon to send in the IDF to repulse the Syrians. Our commitment to the Christians in Lebanon is to prevent their annihilation. The Syrian Army is an occupation army, and it must leave Lebanon, but we have never undertaken to dispatch units with the aim of trying to force the Syrians back to their own country. That is neither our task nor our obligation. We have stated this openly to the Christians in Lebanon and to our friends in the north of that country, the prime minister said.

EYTAN LINKS LIBYANS IN LEBANON TO TERRORISTS

TA011601 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan interview with IDF radio military correspondent Sha'ul Stav--recorded, time and place not given]

[Text] [Eytan] The strike at the [missile unit] came because they work with the terrorists, in the same deployments, and they went to Lebanon in order to defend the terrorists. What applies to the terrorists also applies to them, wherever they are in Lebanon.

[Question] Even if the Syrians aid the Libyans?

[Answer] That could very well be.

[Question] What are the IDF's priority objectives now in this war against the terrorists?

[Answer] The objectives are the same as in the past: to prevent them from being able to carry out activity against our border and along the border from inside Lebanon, to prevent them from organizing, to prevent them from consolidating themselves, to prevent them from holding regular training and to prevent them from absorbing weapons that they are now getting in increasingly large quantities, mainly from Libya, including heavy arms.

BAR-LEV TERMS TZIPORI REMARKS 'PROVOCATION'

TA011718 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1545 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Text] Tel Aviv, 1 Jun--MK Hayim Bar-Lev, the Alignment's shadow defense minister, said today that the remarks of Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori in a radio interview this morning were an unnecessary provocation not consistent with the efforts to attain a settlement by diplomatic means. The facts are there, and the Syrians know what our strength is and what their capability is. Bar-Lev added: "Statements should not be made that are only liable to push the Syrians into an even higher tree."

ISRAELI EMBASSY DISPLEASED WITH HAIG MESSAGE

TA011912 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Text] The Israeli Embassy in Washington has expressed displeasure to senior State Department officials over the fact that the United States sent a message to Yasir 'Arafat through the UN secretary general. Our Washington correspondent Shalom Qital reports that the message was sent by Secretary of State Alexander Haig himself. The State Department spokesman refrained from confirming this report. He said only that the United States had asked various elements to exert their influence on the sides involved in the Lebanon conflict to show restraint. The spokesman explained that there has been no change in U.S. policy toward the PLO.

INVOLVEMENT IN PLO OFFICIAL'S MURDER DENIED

TA020525 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Jun 81

[Excerpt] The Israeli Embassy in Brussels yesterday rejected the PLO spokesman's charges that Israel was responsible for the murder of PLO representative in Brussels Na'im Khadr. The spokesman of the Israeli Embassy in Belgium said that Khadr was probably murdured due to the moderate image he had. A member of the Belgian-Palestinian friendship association also said that the assassination could have been perpetrated by Arab extremists just as it could have been perpetrated by Israelis.

EGYPTIAN MINISTER ON LEBANON, SUMMIT, AUTONOMY

TA020741 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0640 GMT 2 Jun 81

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] One of the ways to resolve the Lebanese crisis is to set up an inter-Arab force that will replace the Syrian force. This is one of the ideas that will be raised in the Ofira summit. This is stated by Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali in a talk with our correspondent, Moshe Hakohen. 'Ali added that Egypt does not accept the approach that after removing the Syrian missiles from Lebanon Israel will continue to enjoy freedom of aerial activity in Lebanese skies. The following are his remarks:

[Begin recording; 'Ali begins each of his remarks in English and Hakohen interrupts and translates them] The missiles are only part of the problem. It is not the whole problem. So, the missiles are one part, Israeli flights over Lebanon ...

[Hakohen] 'Ali says that the missiles are only one part of the problem, the Israeli flights over Lebanon are another part of the problem and so are the Palestinians' operations from Lebanese territory and Israeli action against them. These are all part of a big and complex problem. 'Ali stresses that Egypt will not agree to a solution of one part of the problem, the missile issue, without a solution of the other part, the cessation of Israeli flights. Does Egypt have a plan which it will raise at the Ofira summit for a resolution of the Lebanese crisis? Kamal Hasan 'Ali was asked and his answer: There is no plan, but there are ideas.

['Ali] For instance, other Arab countries can participate in the peacekeeping force in Lebanon instead of this big Syrian force.

[Hakohen] The Egyptian foreign minister says that another issue Egypt will raise in the summit will be the need to renew the autonomy talks immediately after the elections in Israel.

['Ali] I am afraid that a stoppage in our negotiations for the full autonomy and the Israeli practice in Jerusalem...

[Hakohen] 'Ali expressed the fear that stopping the autonomy negotiations and Israeli actions in Jerusalem and in the territories were the elements that caused the Palestinians and Jordan not to join the talks. This is the reason why we want their resumption now, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said. Referring to the Ofira summit the Egyptian foreign minister emphasized this does not constitute intervention in Israeli elections.

['Ali] The relations between the two governments have to continue regardless of the elections here or there.

[Hakohen] 'Ali continued that nevertheless, for the sake of balance, we agreed that Mr Peres will come to meet with President as-Sadat. This indicates that we have no intention to interfere with your domestic affairs, he said. Kamal Hasan 'Ali also referred to President as-Sadat's recent declaration on the Jerusalem issue. We have now presented our position on the Jerusalem issue, and this is perhaps what the entire world has done, he added. 'Ali continued that since Mr Begin and some government and party officials and members have agreed to solve the problem through negotiations, action for finding a solution should continue. There is no problem without a solution.

Regarding Israeli-Egyptian relations after the withdrawal from the Sinai is completed, the Egyptian foreign minister said:

['Ali] I would like to confirm that the relations between Israel and Egypt are developing and the 25th of April, 1982, will be also an addition to the developing relations between our two countries.

[Hakohen] 'Ali said that the 25 April will mark another milestone in the Israeli-Egyptian peace relations as well as a symbol of peaceful relations also vis-a-vis the other Arab countries. In this respect it is possible to say that the relations after 25 April will get closer. On the other hand, 'Ali said, we should cooperate in achieving the objective of the Camp David agreements regarding the Palestinian issue. Hence, the need for the resumption of the autonomy talks after the elections.

On normalization the Egyptian foreign minister said:

['Ali] The whole three agreements and the nine memorandums of understanding are implemented in a very good way, maybe there are some...

[Hakohen] 'Ali was then asked if he talks of the famous linkage betweem the peace treaty and the autonomy.

['Ali] No, this is an old-fashioned word now. There is no linkage, we have not signed a bilateral agreement only. We have already signed the Egyptian-Israeli treaty and we...

[Hakohen] 'Ali said we have signed a bilateral treaty which is a basis for a comprehensive settlement in the region, but there is no linkage between the two matters.

Regarding the Jordanian option, the Egyptian foreign minister says it is not realistic calling it two-faced dynamics.

Finally, what is the Egyptian position regarding the establishment of a Palestinian state?

['Ali] We will not determine the future of the Palestinians. They will determine this in the interim period after 3 years.

[Hakohen] 'Ali said they will determine this in the autonomy's interim period, after 3 or 5 years. Therefore, action should be taken to establish the autonomy so that this process can begin.

PERES DISCUSSES LEBANON, DIFFERENCES WITH BEGIN

TA291752 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 29 May 81

[Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres interview on the Weekly Column program with program moderator David Margalit in the radio studios--recorded, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] MK Shim'on Peres, in your opinion, is the State of Israel now closer to war with Syria or not?

[Answer] Definitely not further away. We are at a dead end with the Syrians. So far, it does not seem as though the diplomatic effort has borne fruit and the forces are militarily prepared.

[Question] When you talk about a dead end, does this mean that there is no point in continuing the diplomatic effort? Or do you mean the opposite?

[Answer] The latter. I think that the diplomatic effort should continue, but not in the current style.

[Question] In what style, then?

[Answer] The diplomatic effort should not be accompanied by verbal rattling of sabers or extremist declarations because the nature of diplomatic negotiations is that they be conducted quietly, involving a minimum of declarations and with resourcefulness. only real diplomatic negotiations, not aimed at impressing people during an election period, stand a change of succeeding.

I can, for example, cite one simple case in point: Clearly the United States has enlisted the Saudi Arabians as the chief diplomats in these negotiations. So one can either tell the United States: I do not like Saudi Arabia: It is run by a rotten, corrupt family--God knows what--so do not introduce it into the negotiations. But if we do introduce it into the negotiations, what is the point in attacking it? So far what has, in my opinion, happened is that Syria is militarily prepared and has regained a place in the Arab world. The Russians have entered the picture. The Saudis have won tremendous prestige and all our policy--or at least that of Mr Begin--is directed more domestically than toward achieving the desired goal.

[Question] So what, in fact, should he do?

[Answer] In my opinion, Mr Begin should enable Mr Philip Habib to conduct the negotiations without making declarations every other day on the radio and on television aimed once at the first and another time at the second--all this until the results are achieved, because, clearly, in these negotiations prestige plays a prominent role. Let me provide one simple example to my remarks, otherwise they will not be understood: Talk is about the return to the status quo ante and this includes the removal of the missile bases in Al-Biqa' the thinning out of the Syrians' missile deployment and freedom of air activity for the Israeli Air Force as was the practice previously. Mr Philip Habib has offered this to the Syrians as a U.S. proposal. What is the point that the prime minister of Israel raised and announced on NBC, that these are Israeli conditions, and place the opponent in the following situation: that either it succumbs to the Israeli conditions or not. If the United States had not suggested this, I would understand. But since it did, let them offer this.

[Question] But clearly Israel is the one that demands this.

[Answer] It is obvious, but therefore one should not declare it, either. The moment you declare it, you turn it into a war of honor. Diplomatic negotiations should not be accompanied by a war of prestige, and certainly not on our part. This is unnecessary.

[Question] But diplomatic negotiations are by nature accompanied by voices and declarations that do not necessarily have a direct bearing on the negotiations themselves. The Syrians, too, have not been silent.

[Answer] I would not like to be like the Syrians. I have always thought that there is a difference between the Syrians and ourselves. The Syrians' public opinion is not free. Al-Asad can well say one thing in the morning and another in the evening. In my opinion, we should have said that we support the U.S. proposal of returning to the status quo, period.

[Question] Do you think a return to the status quo ante is realistic?

[Answer] I strongly doubt that this is realistic in the foreseeable future.

[Question] So what, then, can happen?

[Answer] I repeat: The conducting of quiet, peaceful negotiations should be allowed to continue. The United States should be allowed to shoulder this major objective and should not be relieved of the responsibility for this. We should not present dates [as ultimatums] to which we cannot stand up--and Mr Begin has already presented several dates that we did not stand up to--at first he told the United States, 3 days and later said 1 week. What is the good of all this? One must decide: Either diplomatic negotiations--preferrably confidential, with a breathing space--are conducted or else this is turned into an issue to make an impression on others, either inside the country or outside it.

[Question] Would you not limit the time for the negotiations at all?

[Answer] I would limit them in time only in my heart, but not with my lips. In other words, I would set a date quietly, I would let the Americans understand how much time is necessary. However, something completely different happened here as a result of mixed declarations. You know, occasionally the declarations made by our government are like a British bathroom: hot water separately, and the cold water in a separate tap. On the one hand, we have always said that we would bomb the missiles and do this, that and the other. But the immediate outcome is that the Syrian Army is currently prepared as it never has been before and this, in fact, does not make a military option easier. And when it comes to a military option, one should neither disclose the method, nor the place, nor the time, nor the force that would carry it out. What for? Rather, silence must be maintained and so must the element of surprise.

[Question] But do you not reject the military option?

[Answer] I think the Syrians should be convinced that it would be more advisable for them to go along with the diplomatic option, even though why should they go along with only a diplomatic option? So that I think that it is necessary to make it clear that, in the absence of a diplomatic solution, there will always be the possibility of a military option.

[Question] And are the declarations not part of that clarification?

[Answer] There is no need for this. It is as clear as the sun. We do not have to alert and summon all the armies every other day, because even if you want to proceed with a military option, this does not make things any easier, whereas one should similarly not present conditions from which one later withdraws, conditions which are not relevant.

In other words, there should be a strategy of negotiations, and the strategy I am proposing is, first of all, to exhaust the [diplomatic] negotiations through the United States, which has entered into the scene and has taken positions--let it bear the responsibility. One should not place extra burdens on the negotiations by declarations geared at domestic needs, and second, let it be clear that, in the absence of a diplomatic solution, the Syrians will face other problems.

[Question] Mr Peres, in general, do we not have a problem with the fact that the moment the United States enters the scene, we, starting that minute, cannot in effect operate independently?

[Answer] There is such a problem, definitely. Therefore, we will have to make clear to the United States definitions on the framework of the negotiations, without publicizing this. I repeat this. It is not to our disadvantage that the United States has entered the negotiations. After all, the earlier, de facto agreement we had with the Syrians was also achieved by the United States. Such things have already happened. A Syrian company crossed the red line; the United States intervened at our request; we maintained quiet. Only 5 weeks later, through U.S. mediation, that company returned to its previous location and it became clear to both the United States and Syria that we will not give in and will use all the means at our disposal to have the Syrian company do so [retreat]. This indeed is what happened. So there is a precedent. I see it as an advantage to have U.S. involvement in this issue, and I am for giving them the necessary time and conditions to act on this.

[Question] But, in general, the United States aims primarily--or so it seems, usually--at preventing a flareup. This is sensible. Does this not create the situation whereby Israel can, so to speak, take action if it does things quickly then and there, before the United States manages to react?

[Answer] Such a possibility exists, but the question is whether an Israeli operation would, for example, end with that operation. I am not sure about this. Say we had bombed the missiles on the cloudy day, I am not convinced that this would have ended matters. I presume a Syrian reaction would have come and this would have brought about an escalation. Therefore, in this case, it is preferable to exhaust the diplomatic way.

[Question] So that, in other words, in your opinion the skies acted in our favor?

[Answer] Both the skies and the Americans, because when the clouds dissipated, there came the Americans. The sky finally cleared, so why did the prime minister then refrain from taking action? Because when the sky cleared along came the U.S. intervention.

[Question] Mr Peres, what has moved you to meet now with President as-Sadat, after your own remark that you wanted to avoid such a meeting?

[Answer] There is a significance to exchanges between ourselves and the Egyptians on all the levels and in all forms. On all levels we are a democratic country, so that this also includes all forms [of dialogue] including the informal one.

I have refrained [from meeting with As-Sadat] because I think one must make a clear distinction between election and policy; between security and policy. I think it harms the security and the policy when the impression--perhaps even wrong--is created that these things are being taken advantage of in the election campaign and for electioneering. That is why I have refrained from a meeting, but if the prime minister all of a sudden has an urgent need to meet with President as-Sadat on the expansion of communism and this cannot be put off for 2 weeks, then the picture is entirely different.

[Question] Mr Peres, what is it that actually bothers you about this meeting? After all, there is a topic to discuss: the Lebanon crisis.

[Answer] First of all, I did not say it bothered me. If at all, it is astonishing, but it is not angering me. Let us ask ourselves: What kind of answer does the prime minister expect the Egyptians to give him on Lebanon? Can you imagine that the president of Egypt would openly, in Sharm ash-Shaykh, give advice to the prime minister of Israel which contradicts with the fact of his being the leader of Egypt and the leader of the Arab world? You know, when you go and ask a question, you must also calculate not only what the question is about, but also who the person is that is being asked it. I, for one, was not sure that on the eve of the 6-day war it was necessary to go to President de Gaulle and ask for his opinion. One could have envisioned in advance what he would answer. It is preferable not to ask and consequently not to get an answer over asking, getting an answer and ignoring it. President as-Sadat's ideas regarding Lebanon are very clear. He made them clear in a letter and in public. He made it clear that he is against the involvement of any country in any form in Lebanon--namely, both the Syrians and us; he urges us--and here, too, we are almost in a similar situation--to avoid escalation. Is this reason enough to go to Sharm ash-Shaykh? Do you not know that this is what President as-Sadat will tell you: Get out of Lebanon and do not allow the situation to escalate?

[Question] But is Egypt not an important enough country for us to try to reach maximum understanding with it?

[Answer] But there already are contacts with Egypt. The question is whether this merits contacts at the highest level, to be televised by all television cameras of the world, on an issue with which Egypt feels uneasy and, as a result, one with which we feel ill at ease at asking the Egyptians about. What, then is the logic behind this?

[Question] You are saying, then, directly that you are meeting with President as-Sadat for election needs, in reaction?

[Answer] No, I am saying openly that I am meeting with President as-Sadat in an election campaign period, too, because the rule of not meeting during the election period has been violated.

[Question] The Egyptians have already reacted to this, saying they would not serve a role in the election campaign. However, when you react to this meeting in such a way, are they, so to speak, serving as a tool in the election game?

[Answer] I have no complaints about the Egyptians in this instance. It was not President as-Sadat who telephoned Mr Menahem Begin and said: Let us meet to discuss urgently the expansion of communism or the missiles in Lebanon. It was Begin who took an initiative and called as-Sadat. I assume that the Egyptian president, being a courteous person, responded favorably. Therefore I thought--and I still think--that a national [le'umi umamlakhti] effort should have been made to continue to keep Egypt outside the election campaign. You know, as it is in justice, in elections nonintervention is something that should be shown, not only done. I am convinced that many Israeli citizens are walking around with a heavy heart, asking whether or not this is indeed a political move that is pure, severed from all of Mr Begin's other moves--especially considering that Mr Begin, in my opinion, does not take care, at times when a prime minister should do so carefully, to carefully distinguish between the elections issue and security issues. For example, if a prime minister gets up at a Likud rally and announces that the air force will bomb the missile positions, I am very sorry. This is not a partisan issue; it is not an issue about which one should report at a party conference, and certainly this should not have been done during an election period.

[Question] You strongly criticize Begin, yet the polls have indicated that his popularity is rising.

[Answer] This is not too surprising. Mr Begin has, for 4 weeks now, been exploiting the national media in an unprecedented manner. Again, I criticize him. It is also my job as leader of the opposition to outline the picture. It is inconceivable that a prime minister meets with an envoy whose rank, let us say, is an assistant U.S. secretary of state, and after each meeting the prime minister himself approaches the television and radio crews, issues a declaration that runs hot and cold.
I am convinced that had it not been an election period, Mr Begin himself would not have behaved this way. So, the result is that every day on television, when we are deprived of the possibility of reacting, he comes out with declarations as his mood dictates, telling stories that no prime minister ever used to--stories such as how many reservists there are in Israel; and, when he is angered by a press military commentator, does he then have to say that the air force was about to bomb the missiles and only the clouds prevented this from happening? Why should one tell the Syrians that the clouds prevented a bombing? This is unprecedented. Well, the public then sees the prime minister, who uses the television and the radio every night for purposes that are not necessarily political or pertaining to defense, and it forms an erroneous impression. We have to take a longer course going from one place to another to explain our positions. This is what we have been doing.

[Question] When you take a look at the election campaign--and not only that of the Alignment, but in general--do you like the level on which it is being conducted?

[Answer] No, I do not like it because there has constantly been an attempt to divert attention from the main issues to transient ones. I think there are three major issues in this election campaign which the Likud has been trying to avoid. The first, what kind of Israel [do we want]. Jewish and democratic or Jewish-Arab with serious democracy problems within it? This is the direction the Likud is leaning. This is the historic decision. If, God forbid, Israel becomes a Jewish-Arab state, a country with 3 million Jews and 2 million Arabs with a high birth rate, this will be something to weep about for generations to come, forever. It is beyond remedy.

The second thing, in my opinion, is: What kind of economy should we have? An economy of business [last word in English] of a semiprovincial nature, semicommercial or rather a working people that lives in work, with a country whose economy continually grows and has a prospering agriculture? Agriculture has hardly been able to breathe. Interest rates are eating up the fields. No serious plant has been established in the last 4 years. This is the second decision.

The third: What kind of democracy does Israel want? a democracy subordinate to one person, who is given to temperamental moods, or a representational democracy, reflecting the national map and the resources of manpower it has?

[Question] Do you, from time to time, stop for a minute and contemplate the possibility that you may not win the election?

[Answer] No. I believe we will win, and (?I am) in a fighting spirit, as it is called. I estimate that I am a man capable of controlling his nerves, his faith. I am not a captive of pessimism.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES SFRY DEFENSE MINISTER

LD011014 Tripoli JANA in English 0845 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Jun (JANA)--Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi last night received General Nikola Ljubicic, federal secretary of national defense in Yugoslavia, currently visiting the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE 1 JUN

LD012102 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Text] At his press conference at noon today in Rabat, his majesty the king stressed Morocco's sincere desire to build up the edifice of the Arab Maghreb. He said he hopes to see the day when Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco enjoy their resources collectively. His majesty said he will be going to Nairobi to attend the African summit conference, scheduled for the end of this month, and he will present to the conference positive proposals aimed at finding a solution for the tension which exists in northwest Africa, providing this solution is a peaceful one and not capitulatory.

Referring to the meeting in Freetown of the African Commission of Wisemen, his majesty said the commission's work was confined to hearing the views of the various sides and then presenting a report to an extraordinary OAU summit conference to be convened specially for the so-called Sahara issue.

Referring to the Moroccan-Algerian border, his majesty declared he regarded the problem as settled by the agreement which the foreign ministers of both countries concluded; it only remained for the Chamber of Deputies to approve it.

His majesty also spoke about the war effort being exerted by Morocco in order to preserve its territorial integrity. He said Morocco is well, despite everything; the development projects are being accomplished.

Referring to the Middle East, his majesty stressed the need for the Soviet Union's participation in the search for a solution in the region. He said it is wrong to say the key to the solution is in the United States' hand; the solution is basically in the hands of the Arab states.

Speaking about Arab-French relations after the socialists have come to power in France, he said President Francois Mitterrand should maintain the level of traditional relations that link the Arab world and France, and to exploit this cooperation so as to contribute to the efforts to find a settlement in the Middle East. He also called on President Mitterrand to abandon his visit to occupied Palestine.

His majesty also spoke about a number of international issues, including the dialogue between North and South. His majesty stressed that a useful dialogue would be the tripartite talks which must take place between Europe, Africa and the Arab world.

The press conference was attended by members of the government headed by the prime minister, the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, his majesty's advisers and members of the high command of the Royal Armed Forces.

BRIEFS

NEW HUMAN RIGHTS MAZAGINE--A new magazine for human rights will be published soon by the Moroccan federation for the protection of human rights. This magazine will publish a number of studies, subjects and news concerning human rights in Morocco and around the world. Moreover, it will include the activities carried by the federation and its philosophy. The first issue of the magazine will be published soon. [Text] [Rabat AL-'ALAM in Arabic 23 May 81 p 1 WA]

SUDAN

OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON ANTI-SUDAN 'CAMPAIGNS'

JN011550 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Jun (SUNA)--Ar-Rashid at-Tahir, secretary general of the Political Affairs and Organizations Department, has said that the increasing campaigns launched abroad against Sudan and the connection of these campaigns with the hostile movements in the country are not a new thing. The cohesion on the internal front, At-Tahir added, will always remain the safety valve against such campaigns.

At a meeting held here today by the Political Affairs and Organizations Department, At-Tahir said that the decisions made by the Socialist Union's Central Committee on the reactivation of relations between Sudan and Egypt have provoked a reaction in the form of an escalation of the offensive against the Sudanese Government and leadership. He further said that the campaigns outside the country have echoed within Sudan and that at the current stage the hostile moves in Sudan are reactivated and the plots against Sudan from outside are escalating.

It was decided in today's meeting to ensure the internal front's strength and to work for confronting the hostile internal and external campaigns against the Sudanese Government through a program aimed at increasing production and confronting the enemies who work in collusion with counterparts outside the country.

IRAQI AGRICULTURAL DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR TALKS

JN011932 Khartoum SUNA in English 1745 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Text] Khartoum, May 0 [as received] (SUNA)--Iraqi Deputy-President of Agricultural Cooperative Societies Sa'dun Mustafa Ahmad arrived here today, coming from Somalia, to hold talks with the officials in the General Union of Sudanese Farmers and the National Cooperative Union on bilateral relations. The Iraqi official will also discuss the transfer of the center of Arab farmers from Tripoli in Libya to any other Arab country because of the shameful practices of the Libyan regime against [words indistinct] similar talks with the Somali officials on this concern. A Sudanese delegation of 20 members representing Sudanese farmers General Union and the National Cooperative Union had been to Iraq on a 45-day visit at the invitation of the Iraqi farmers cooperative societies.

WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR STATEMENT ON OAU COMMISSION SESSION REPORTED

LD012334 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Text] In a statement published this evening, Prime Minister Mohamed Lamine of the SDAR said the outcome of Saturday's Freetown meeting of the OAU Commission on Western Sahara was positive as far as the Saharan national cause and those (?adhering) to the OAU Charter and defenders of the liquidation of colonialism in Africa were concerned. Mr Mohamed Lamine, who explained his country's position to the Wisemen Commission--just as the prime minister of the Rabat regime did--explained that the commission had very clearly defined the two disputing parties in the crisis, and regarded the Rabat regime an aggressor and the SDAR as the victim of aggression. The Saharan prime minister pointed out that the OAU Commission became certain of the stubbornness and hardness of the Moroccan expansionist regime, and that the OAU would take the necessary measure regarding the constant rejection by the aggressor Rabat regime of the resolutions of international organizations and [word indistinct] the African desire to find a final peaceful political settlement for the Saharan issue on the basis of the quick implementation of the resolutions of these organizations.

CAMEROON

SOURCES DENY OCCUPYING NIGERIAN VILLAGES

AB311227 Paris AFP in French 1158 GMT 31 May 81

[Text] Yaounde, 31 May (AFP)--Authorized Cameroonian sources on Sunday categorically denied a news item published on Saturday by a Lagos daily paper, HERALD, saying that Cameroonian armed forces have occupied seven fishing villages within Nigerian territory.

The same sources recall that Cameroon is peaceful and that it has always respected the soil of its neighbors, in particular that of the biggest among them, Nigeria. The news item, published on Saturday in the Nigerian capital, is most whimsical, the sources added.

CHAD

GOUKOUNI ANNOUNCES NEW NATIONAL ARMY IN INTERVIEW

AB311222 Paris AFP in English 1217 GMT 31 May 81

[Text] Freetown, Sierra Leone, May 31 (AFP)--All the major political-military factions in strife-ridden Chad except Hissein Habre's rebels have agreed to lay down their arms and build a unified national army, President Goukouni Queddei said here today.

The agreement is intended to pave the way for the withdrawal of thousands of Libyan troops from Chad, where they have been a source of friction among African states and have raised fears of introducing superpower rivalry in the heart of the continent.

The head of Chad's transitional government, in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, said the agreement was signed Friday in Ndjamena by himself, Vice President Wadal Abdel Kader Kamougue, pro-Libyan Foreign Minister Acyl Ahmat and two other faction leaders: Mahamat Abba Said and Mahamat Moussa.

Mr. Goukouni, who was in Freetown for an Organization of African Unity committee meeting on Chad that was cancelled without explanation, said that his government no longer wanted an African peace-keeping force in Chad such as the OAU has been trying to set up. He said that if the force were sent, its role should be limited to equipping and training the new Chadian army.

Fulfillment of the Ndjamena accord would be a big step toward reunification of Chad, torn throughout two decades of independence by civil strife that peaked in last year's civil war between government forces and Mr. Habre's army. It would also make possible a pullout by the Libyans, whose leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, has said they will stay until Chad's security is assured.

Mr. Goukouni said the agreement was reached at a government seminar in the Chadian capital.

The seminar's defense and security committee adopted several resolutions, including one thanking the Libyan Government for its decisive aid, but calling on the government to establish in cooperation with (Libyan) authorities a schedule for troop withdrawal, which will be completed when the (integrated army) is set up.

Another resolution opposed the presence on Chadian soil of any foreign troops, the Chad president said.

He said the resolution on the integrated national army (ANI) stipulated it should unite the faction forces. Its role would be to preserve the national independence, territorial integrity and internal and external security of the country. In case of internal fighting, the resolution said, the army will observe strict neutrality.

The army is to be built around the forces of Colonel Kamougue, the main southern leader in ethnically divided Chad, as the core, taking their experience into account, the resolution said. But the army is to draw its membership from all ethnic, regional and religious groups in the country.

Much of the strife in Chad has been along geographic lines, with the Moslem nomads of the north contending with the Christian-animist farmers of the south.

CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES BANK TO REOPEN IN NDJAMENA

AB292015 Paris AFP in French 835 GMT 29 May 81

[Text] Yaounde, 29 May (AFP)--The Bank of Central African States (BEAC), will reopen its branch in Ndjamena in early June, it was announced in a statement issued by the governor of BEAC whose headquarters is in Yaounde.

The statement indicated that the decision was made by the committee of finance ministers of the five BEAC member states (Cameroon, Congo, CAR, Gabon, Chad) at its last meeting in Libreville.

It is to be recalled that the Ndjamena branch, which has been closed since the beginning of the hostilities (March 1980), kept some 14 billion CFA francs in reserve. Observers see its reopening as a first and important step toward normalization of the financial and economic situation in Chad. It will enable especially the reopening of other banks such as the BIAO [International Bank for West Africa] and the BICIT [International Bank of Commerce and Industry of Chad]. It will also enable reconstruction firms in the capital to obtain credits necessary for their activity, reliable sources emphasized.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

VICE PRESIDENT DENIES LINK WITH COUP ATTEMPT

LD290929 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 24 May 81 p 13

[EUROPA PRESS-EFE report]

[Text] Madrid, 23 May--Equatorial Guinean Vice President Florencio Maye Ela denied yesterday morning at Barajasa airport that he is in any way connected with an alleged coup d'etat against Equatorial Guinean President Obiang Nguema.

Maye Ela arrived in Madrid this morning from Latin America, where he has been on a 35-day official visit. He was received at Barajas airport by Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Robles Piquer. He will probably stay in Madrid a few days before returning home.

Asked by national radio whether he fears any repercussions following the reports of the alleged coup d'etat, the Guinean vice president relied: "I love my country more than anything else. Therefore I flatly deny anything that might have been said because I know nothing about it and could not have been involved. What concerns me and what now concerns Guineans of good will is our country's reconstruction and progress.

"I have no worries or problems about entering the country because I went to Latin America on an official mission, selected by President Obiang, and I hope to return with full honor and dignity to inform my government and my people of the outcome of my visit."

GABON

SPECIAL TRIBUNAL CREATED TO DEAL WITH VIOLENCE

AB291941 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 29 May 81

[Excerpt] With regard to the incidents between Gabon and Cameroon, the minister delegate to the president for national defense, Mr Julien Mpouho-Epigat, has made the following statement:

[Begin recording] Within the framework of the periodical meetings on security, the responsible officials in charge of security have held a meeting at the request of the head of state in order to brief him on the recent events. During the talks, the head of state drew our attention to the continuing acts of vandalism, aggression and rape being carried out in Libreville as well as in other large cities of the country. In this regard, the head of state has given us formal orders to rigorously repress every act likely to disrupt public order, by means of a special tribunal.

In another development we examined with the head of state the unfortunate incidents which saw Cameroonians and Gabonese oppose one another. These regrettable incidents, which broke out in Cameroon and continued in Gabon, caused moral, physical and material damage to Cameroonians as well as to Gabonese. As a result of these incidents some Cameroonians, at the request of their government, have decided to return home. There is no gainsaying that the Gabonese Government has expelled no one. The statement made on the radio and television by the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation attests to this. Within the framework of his policy of good-neighbor relations, the head of state, who is an out-and-out champion of nonviolence, calls on those Cameroonians who still want to stay in Gabon to return quietly to their residences. Strict orders have been given to security forces to ensure the tranquility and security of all the nationals of friendly countries living in Gabon. In the same connection, members of the public are requested to report to security forces every reprehensible act which they might suffer or witness. [end recording]

DEFENSE OFFICIAL ON INCIDENTS WITH CAMEROONIANS

AB301050 Libreville Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 30 May 81

[Statement made in Libreville on 30 May by Gabon's minister delegate to the presidency for national defense, Mr Julien Mpouho-Epigat, on incidents between Cameroon and Gabon--read by announcer]

[Text] Within the framework of periodical meetings related to matters of security, officers of the security forces were summoned by the head of state in order to report to him on the events which occurred recently. During the meeting, the head of state made us aware of the continued acts of vandalism, aggression and lawlessness being committed in Libreville as well as in other great urban centers of the country. To this end, the head of state gave us specific orders, within the framework of an emergency court, to check very rigorously any act capable of disturbing public order.

Also, we discussed with the head of state the unfortunate incidents between Cameroonians and Gabonese. These regrettable incidents, which began in Cameroon and continued in Gabon, have caused physical and material damages to the Cameroonians as well as to the Gabonese. The consequences of these incidents are that, following a call by their government, some Cameroonians have decided to return home. It goes without saying that the Gabonese Government has not expelled anybody. The radio statement by the foreign affairs and cooperation minister testifies to this. The head of state, a staunch supporter of nonviolence, and within the framework of his good-neighbor relations policy, is calling on Cameroonians who wish to continue to stay in Gabon to return peacefully to their residences.

Strict orders have been given to all security forces to guarantee the tranquility and the security of the nationals of all friendly countries who are living in Gabon. Within this same framework, the people are requested to report any reprehensible act they might have suffered or witnessed to the security forces.

GHANA

PRESIDENT LIMANN VISITS YUGOSLAVIA, ROMANIA

For a Belgrade TANJUG account of the joint communique released on the 18-22 May visit to Yugoslavia of Ghanaian President Dr Hilla Limann, see the Yugoslavia section of the 28 May Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT. For Bucharest reportage on the 22-25 May visit of President Limann to Romania see the Romania section of the 28 May Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

LIBERIA

DOE SPEECH ON RETURN FROM FREETOWN ECOWAS MEETING

AB301321 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1135 GMT 30 May 81

[Speech by Liberian President M Sgt Samuel K. Doe on his return to Monrovia from ECOWAS summit in Freetown--live]

[Text] Mr Vice Chairman of the People's Redemption Council (PRC), members of the PRC, Mr Commanding General, Mr Chief of Staff, members of the Armed Forces of Liberia, members of the diplomatic corps, excellencies, members of the special tribunals, ladies and gentlemen, we are certainly happy to be back home today after a most rewarding 3-day visit to the Republic of Sierra Leone, where we attended summit conferences of the Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS] and the Mano River Union. The most gorgeous and impressive welcome accorded us on our return home reminds us of a very enthusiastic reception we received in Freetown by the people of Sierra Leone upon our arrival in that city on Wednesday afternoon. [applause] The spontaneous turnout of the people of Sierra Leone to greet us demonstrated their love and the harmony of our leadership and the high esteem in which they hold us. I extend deep appreciation to President Siaka Stevens and his most friendly people for the very warm cordiality accorded us throughout our visit to their progressive country. [applause]

In a special way I want to thank the vice head of state, Maj Gen Thomas Wen Syen, Dr Harry P. Nayou, chairman of the Cabinet and members of the Cabinet for their combined efforts in maintaining the stability of the state and the functioning of the government. [applause] We are also appreciative to the members of our delegation, including our working staff, for their contribution to the success of our visit.

We must give particular thanks to God for the safety of our trip. We owe our gratitude to Capt Moses Wivan, Copilot Stanley Vincent, and the crew of Air Liberia for their efficient conduct of the flight.

The secretary general of the Mano River Union, the Liberian ambassador to Freetown and the Liberian community in Freetown deserve our most sincere commendations for their very kind hospitality extended us in Freetown.

My fellow citizens, we have returned home with a renewed vigor to work for the consolidation of the aims and objectives of the ECOWAS. We emphasize that member states of ECOWAS have showed a more genuine concern for economic development than for political maneuvering. [applause] In my address at the opening session in Freetown, I said: "If we sacrifice our interest in favor of personality, this integration is possible. If we fail to accept each other as leaders of sovereign and independent nations and peoples, then we will be contradicting our commitments to the struggle of Africans for unity and solidarity." I went further to indicate that if we respect each other, if we seek to associate, if we try to love rather than to hate, then ECOWAS will surely rise to become a powerful economic force, not only in Africa but in the entire [word indistinct]. [applause] That was the message I left with my brothers of ECOWAS in the name of the people of Liberia.

Fellow Liberians, I have the conviction that the ECOWAS has a significant role in determining the destiny of our continent. Our community, comprising 16 nations with vast human and natural resources, stands before the world as the most promising enterprise and as a chamber of great economic potential. We can effectively utilize our oil, iron ore, gold, diamond, uranium, bauxite as well as our cash crops to satisfy the needs of member countries of the community. However, a meaningful prize of success can only be achieved if we devote greater time and resources to the building of roads to link our respective countries, if we establish effective and efficient communications systems and improve air and sea travel. We must also endeavor to eliminate the sociocultural and commercial barriers existing between nations and peoples as a further means of intensifying integration among us.

Fellow citizens, as a founding member of ECOWAS, we must reemphasize that the government of the PRC will continue to honor all commitments on the ECOWAS agreements including implementation of step one of the protocol on free movement of residents and establishments with due consideration to protecting the national interest.

It is important to note that during our visit to Freetown, we had the pleasure of signing the 13 protocols to the Mano River Union Declaration relating to trade among states of the union. We shall also mark other tangible accomplishments of our organization which will also enable Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea to undertake more broadly based rural and urban development programs in the interest of our respective peoples. We are happy to note that during our visit, we had proper consultations with a number of African leaders, including President Siaka Stevens, President Sekou Toure, Dr Hilla Limann of Ghana, the president of Mauritania and Nigerian President Alhaji Shehu Shagari. These discussions were held in an atmosphere of frankness and cordiality. We reviewed a number of issues affecting relations between our countries and I must say that much was achieved as a result of our talks. [applause]

My fellow citizens, today I stand before you to again emphasize the great responsibility which rests upon our shoulders as leaders and citizens of this great and good country, Liberia. [applause] Let us be constantly reminded that the success of a nation depends upon how much time we devote to fruitful labor. We cannot build Liberia on hopes and dreams; this can only be done if corruption, injustice and mismangement are gotten rid of. We can go further and state that the PRC renews its commitment against harassment and intimidation of citizens and those living in our borders. If we are to continue to win the respect and admirations of all nations, our look must be broadened and our goals expanded. The power to achieve new destinies lies within us and we must continue to win battles against those who wish us evil. When we identify our friends, who comprise the majority of our people, we must give them love. In all of our endeavors, ladies and gentlemen, we need complete unity and solidarity in our country. We need to ensure that our people continue to live in peace and happiness. But above all, we need general commitment to the building by all of us of a truly progressive and dynamic nation in which all of us could enjoy the fruits of our labor. In the cause of the people, the struggle continues. Thank you. [applause]

DOE ORDERS DISMISSAL OF FINANCE MINISTRY PERSONNEL

AB011835 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1755 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Text] The head of state and chairman of the People's Redemption Council [PRC], M Sgt Samuel Doe, today ordered the immediate dismissal of all personnel at the procurement and maintenance sections of the Ministry of Finance in Monrovia. In a directive to Finance Minister George K. Dunye, at the Finance Ministry today during a surprise visit to acquaint himself with activities there, Master Sergeant Doe said the employees should be sacked for what he called negligence of duty.

When the head of state accompanied by Vice Head of State Maj Gen Thomas Weh Syem, PRC Speaker Nicholas Podier, Secretary General Abraham Kollie, and other senior PRC members visited the procurement and maintenance sections, it was discovered that over 600 airport and freeport service charges receipts were scattered all about. En route to the Finance Ministry, Master Sergeant Doe and party made a brief stopover at the Barclay training center and inspected construction work on military housing units being built there.

SOLDIERS ORDERED TO TURN IN ALL EXTRA FIREARMS

AB020813 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0625 GMT 2 Jun 81

[Text] All military personnel in possession of more than one firearm, have been ordered to turn in their arms immediately or face serious penalty. This was announced yesterday by the armed forces logistic commander, Col John Nuewen.

Speaking to the LIBERIAN NEWS AGENCY at his Barclay Training Center (BTC) office yesterday, Colonel Nuewen said since the revolution, some soldiers have been in possession of extra arms they have confiscated from other soldiers who were arrested for harassing citizens. He said some soldiers who were reassigned to other units were also retaining extra arms. Colonel Nuewen also warned armed forces cyclists against the danger of riding motorcycles with M-16 rifles.

NIGERIA

LEGISLATOR SAYS CAMEROON MASSING TROOPS ON BORDER

AB020833 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 2 Jun 81

[Text] The chairman of the House of Representatives Defense Committee, Mr John Laven, has called for maximum support from Nigerians in the ongoing efforts by the Federal Government to find a solution to the dispute between Nigeria and Cameroon. In a statement yesterday, Mr Laven observed that Cameroon has transformed a purely diplomatic issue requiring diplomatic solution to a military issue now requiring a military solution. He said information reaching the committee indicated a high concentration of armed troops on Cameroon side of the border with Nigeria. Mr Laven said that his committee viewed this as a new development in the border conflict.

PAPERS COMMENT ON LIBERIA, BOTHA'S U.S. VISIT

AB020913 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Jun 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The DAILY TIMES notes with dismay the allegation made against Nigeria by Liberia, that the country was planning to prevent her from participating in the ECOWAS deliberations. The paper emphasizes that the allegation is not only false, but was also contrary to available facts. It points out that having contributed so much to achieving integration within the ECOWAS, it will be illogical for Nigeria to destroy what she has worked for by alienating one of the member countries of the community. The TIMES advises the Liberian Government, headed by Sergeant Doe, to put his foreign policy machinery in order in the quest for international recognition, instead of accusing Nigeria unnecessarily.

The visit of racist South Africa's foreign minister to the United States engages the attention of the DAILY STAR. The paper says by this invitation, America has openly declared support for the unpopular regime and its obnoxious apartheid policy. The STAR reminds the Reagan administration of its option to choose between Africa and the racist minority government in South Africa.